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PARKS PERSPECTIVE

January, 1985 *Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks • Parks Division*

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I am pleased to present "Parks Perspective" for fiscal 1984. It's a look at the Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks — who we are, what we do, where we've been, and where we are going. This introduction is a new addition to the report which has been prepared annually in similar form since 1978. Through it, I will add my personal perspective.

I have always been proud of the Parks Division...its mission, its people, and its accomplishments; but as I look back on the previous year and ahead to the coming one, I am especially proud of what we have accomplished and eager about the prospects for our future. Let me tell you why and in so doing, take the liberty to depart from established format by bridging the past through the present to the future.

During the past year, the Parks Division staff has undergone more change than at any time in its history. About two-thirds of our full-time positions have been vacated and refilled. This has resulted from promotions, transfers, and retirements...not one from disciplinary action. The result has already begun to create a new vitality for our organization. It has also made the past year one of adjustments and learning and one without the luxury to take "time out" to pick up the reins. Not only have the adjustments been made successfully, but we have shouldered new responsibilities and begun new projects while demonstrating that, as a Division, we are stronger than ever.

For example, we have accepted the responsibility for managing the Department's surplus lands trade and disposal program. The Legislature has given us the landscape, design, maintenance, and snow removal responsibility for the Capitol campus and many other State buildings in Helena. We have been very closely involved in the Department's capital building program, working on regional headquarters replacement and fish hatchery projects. Congress appropriated a special "Jobs Bill" in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program which we implemented on an incredibly short time frame and with existing staff. We reorganized the administrative responsibilities at Canyon Ferry and worked closely with the Director's office and his Planning Unit on strategic planning. In the field, we've innovatively, aggressively and effectively attacked the problems of additional maintenance responsibility with less money while opening new parks recently acquired or developed.

Our major challenge in the coming year will be to gain public, administrative, and legislative support for an increased effort to bring the State Parks System up to a standard of which we can all be proud and which Montanans deserve.

Pivotal in our planning is a request to change the Coal Tax Parks law to allow the Parks Coal Tax trust earnings to be spent on maintenance on all State Park System sites, and at the same time, de-emphasizing acquisition of new sites until the ones presently in the System are "up and running."

We will continue to work closely with the strategic planning process in an effort to define a model State Park System and to redefine our role in public outdoor recreation...with respect to river management, for example.

We intend to take new initiatives in public involvement and within our interrelationships with other agencies as well as other divisions within the Department. Finally, we will begin to assess our role in the State's centennial celebration in 1989. The cultural wealth represented in the State Park System and the opportunity to develop that resource in celebration of the centennial are eminently appropriate.

Each year brings new challenges, to be met with an ever-changing strategy. We eagerly look forward to the coming year and the evolving bloom of the State Park System.


Don Hyppa

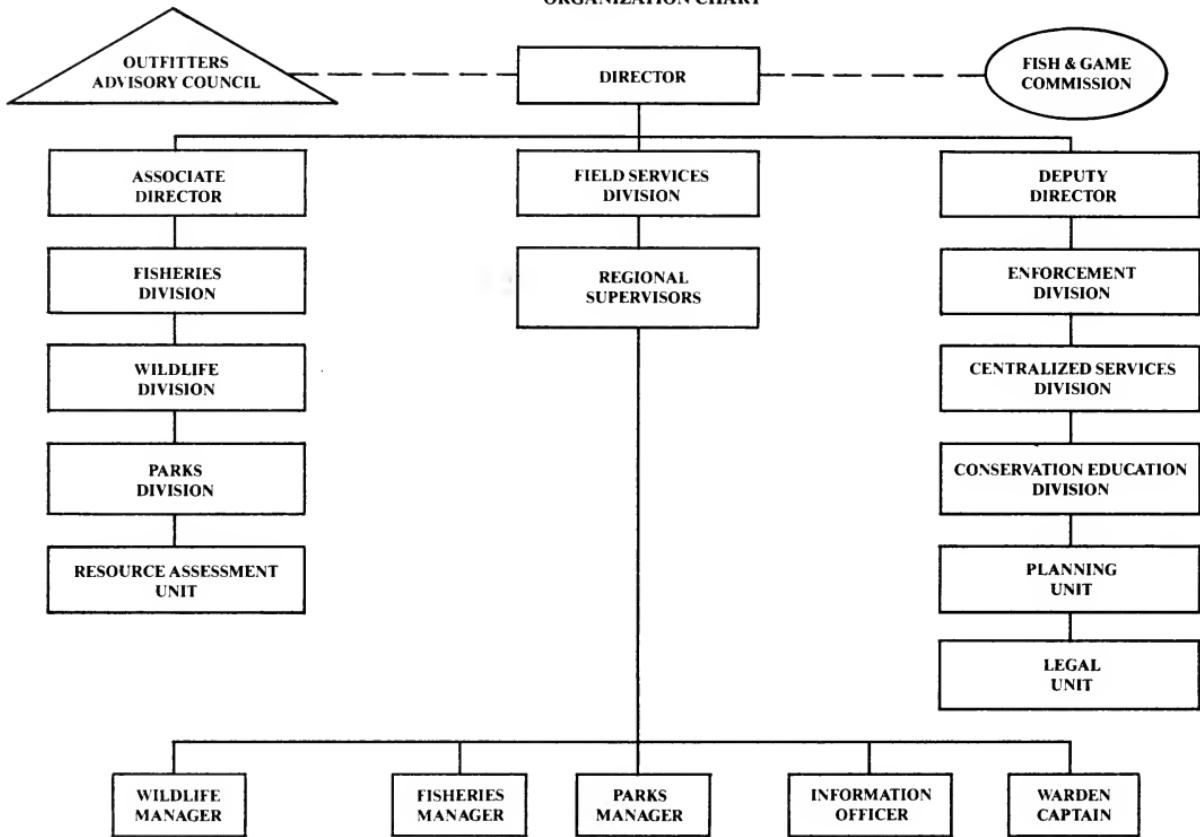
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division



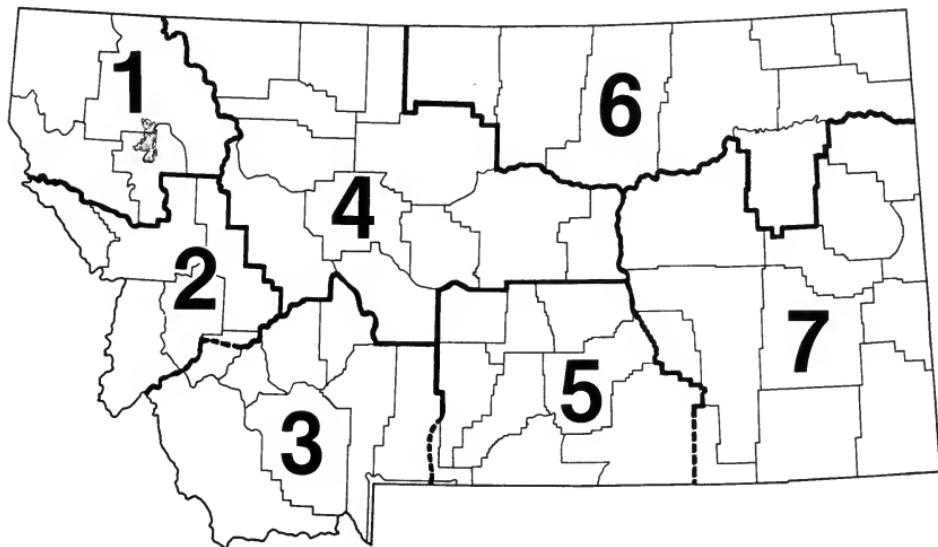


CHAPTER 1

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
ORGANIZATION CHART



Regional Boundaries and Offices



STATE HEADQUARTERS

1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
444-3750

REGIONAL OFFICES

Region 1
P.O. Box 67
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-5505

Region 2

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59801
721-5808

Region 3

8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
586-5808

Region 4

Route 4041
Great Falls, MT 59405
454-3441

Region 5

1125 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59101
252-4654

Region 6

Route 1, Box 210
Glasgow, MT 59230
228-9347

Region 7

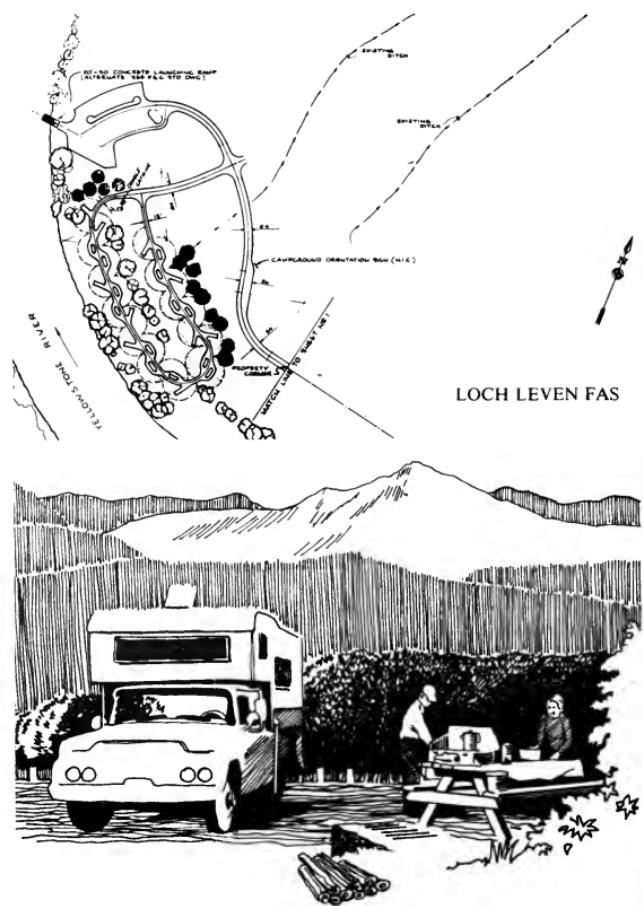
Box 430
Miles City, MT 59301
232-4365

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The embryo which would eventually mature into Montana's present State Park System began to develop in 1929. In that year, a Kiwanis club supported bill was passed by the legislature which designated the state forester as state park director. Then, in 1934, Morrison Cave (then designated Lewis and Clark National Monument and now named Lewis and Clark Caverns) became Montana's first state park. Sale of cave admission tickets was the Park System's principal source of revenue from 1939 until 1947 when the first legislative appropriation was made for park purposes. By 1947, five parks had been donated to the Park System, and appropriated funding enabled the system to grow to thirteen sites by 1953. In an effort to consolidate state government, all park functions were transferred in March 1953 from the State Forester's Office to the State Highway Commission and in 1965, the Fish and Game Department (name changed to Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in 1979) accepted responsibility for recreation management and all park functions were consequently transferred. This transfer was made in order to coordinate all park and recreation activities under a single parent agency, where it resides today.

As described in the remainder of this publication, the Parks Division has been and continues to be highly active in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the state's inhabitants and visitors. The Park System now includes over 300 parks, monuments, recreation areas, waterways, roads, trails, and fishing access sites. Operation and maintenance of snowmobile and motorboat facilities is the responsibility of the Parks Division and other special interest outdoor recreation groups often turn to the Division and the Department for assistance. In addition, the Department, through the Parks Division, administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grants-in-aid program for local and state outdoor recreation projects.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is mandated by law to conserve Montana's scenic historic, archaeological, scientific and recreational resources for the use and enjoyment of the people. The Parks Division operation of state parks, recreational areas, monuments, fishing access sites, and recreational waterways, roads, and trails fulfills that responsibility. While management for conservation and use are sometimes considered contradictory goals, they exist in harmony in the Parks Division and neither is allowed to predominate. There is little point in conserving park resources if they cannot be used and enjoyed by people, but use cannot be allowed to destroy the very thing being conserved. Management efforts such as land acquisition, capital construction, law enforcement, interpretation, the provision of information, operations, general maintenance, and coordination with other agencies are carefully balanced to produce the end product — resources of value to present and future generations.



MONTANA STATE PARK SYSTEM VISITATION

How many people visit the State Park System? The answer to this question is not only a sought-after piece of information for park managers, but many other persons as well. Visitation figures are used for the manager's park planning and are constantly being requested by other agencies, organizations, or individuals for their planning or just for information. Since our state has over 300 State Park System sites dotting its average 550 mile length, collecting accurate visitor statistics to respond to the requests is no easy task.

The Technique

The mainstay of the visitation calculation technique is the electric traffic counter. As these instruments are expensive and manpower is not available to manage a counter at every site, counters are rotated on an annual schedule. Each site in the state should be serviced by a traffic counter once every five to seven years. In the interim, statistics from the previous year are revised by analyzing traffic flow on each site's feeder route as determined by the Montana State Highway Department's extensive traffic counter system. Traffic counts are converted to visits by using a person/vehicle factor determined from observations by fee collection personnel. Traffic counters do tend to produce visitation figures at the high end of the scale; e.g., a visitor may leave and re-enter a site more than once during one outing. System-wide, however, this overestimate appears balanced by the fact that a number of sites have secondary entrances or are accessible by foot or boat only, thus visitors avoid any traffic counter.

Traffic counter readings are begun on Memorial Day weekend (May 27, 1983) and ended on September 30. Annual statewide visitation can be derived by expanding this value by 15%. This value was determined from observation by park officials.

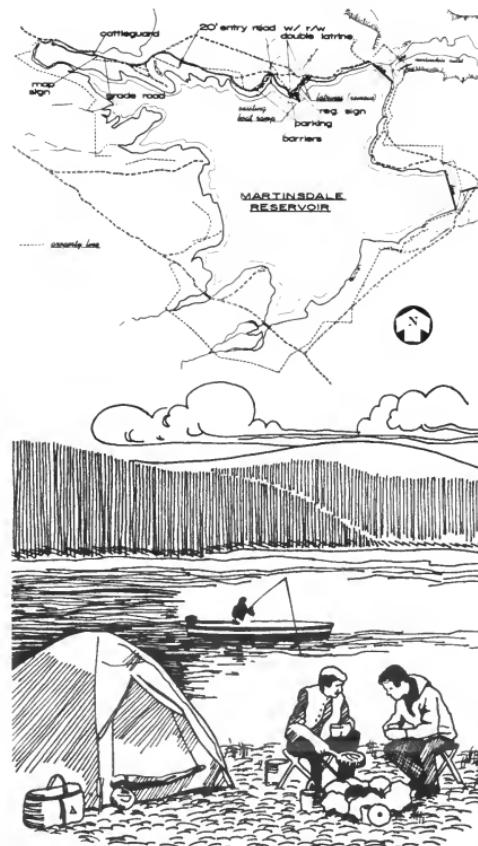
A Change of Reporting Date

In past years, Parks Perspective has reported visitation statistics for the current calendar year. However, this report period required postponing the printing of the entire document until well after the first of the next calendar year. To facilitate a more timely printing date, visitation statistics will, in the future, be given for the calendar year prior to the reporting season.

The statistics that follow reflect the 1983 season, and are identical to those reported in the FY'83 Parks Perspective. Statistics for 1984 will be calculated in January of 1985 and will be reported in the next issue of Parks Perspective. Visitation statistics will be available upon request as soon as they have been generated.

The Results

The counter program indicates that the Montana State Parks System hosted nearly 4.5 million people during the 1983 calendar year, an increase of approximately 8% over 1982. A comparison of overnight camping permit sales to total visitation revealed that 14% of the System's visitors stayed overnight.



MARTINSDALE FAS



LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS SP

STATEWIDE PARKS VISITATION

	Visits	% Change From Previous Year
Calendar Year 1981	3,544,000	+ 7%
Calendar Year 1982	4,146,400	+ 17%
Calendar Year 1983	4,469,700	+ 8%

The oldest and one of the most attractive state parks in Montana, Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, serves as an indicator site with respect to visitation. Tour ticket sales at the Caverns in 1983 experienced an eight percent increase over the previous year. This coincides with the calculated statewide increase above, offering strong confirmation for accuracy of the overall visitation statistics.

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS

Tour Ticket Sales

	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Total	% Change From Previous Year
Calendar Year 1981	4,638	11,391	19,154	17,458	5,304	57,943	+ 10
Calendar Year 1982	3,642	10,018	18,565	16,004	4,673	52,902	- 9
Calendar Year 1983	4,308	10,876	20,349	16,977	4,568	57,078	+ 8

The total visitation statistics presented in Tables 1 and 2 below were collected using the traffic counter technique. Overnight visits were determined by overnight camping permit sales plus 30%, (permit sales are considered to be only 70% efficient statewide). One permit corresponds to one vehicle. Therefore, permit sales must also be multiplied by the number of persons observed per vehicle to convert to the number of visitors. Day use is the difference between total visits and overnight visits at fee sites. All statistics are reported in terms of the number of visits during the period beginning Memorial Day weekend and ending September 30, except for the annual visitation given in the last line of Table 2.

Table 1. Fee Areas - 1983
(May 27 - September 30)

Region	Overnight Visits / % Total	Day Use Visits / % Total	Total Visits
1	71,700 / 23	237,600 / 77	309,300
2	13,800 / 15	76,500 / 85	90,300
3	15,800 / 12	114,100 / 88	129,900
Canyon Ferry	40,400 / 8	445,300 / 92	485,700
4	15,400 / 25	45,300 / 75	60,700
5	20,300 / 7	262,900 / 93	283,200
6	no fee areas	no fee areas	no fee areas
7	7,500 / 5	145,800 / 95	153,300
Statewide	184,900 / 12	1,327,500 / 88	1,512,400

Table 2. All State Park System Sites - 1983
(May 27 - September 30)

Region	Overnight Visits / % Total	Day Use Visits / % Total	Total Visits
1	140,700 / 23	470,900 / 77	611,600
2	79,200 / 15	449,100 / 85	528,300
3	68,200 / 12	500,300 / 88	568,500
Canyon Ferry	47,300 / 8	543,600 / 92	590,900
4	131,000 / 25	392,800 / 75	523,800
5	40,200 / 7	534,100 / 93	574,300
6	11,900 / 12*	86,900 / 88*	98,800
7	19,500 / 5	371,000 / 95	390,500
Seasonal Total	538,000 / 14	3,348,700 / 86	3,886,700
Annual Total (Seasonal Total + 15%)			4,469,700

Overnight use decreases by an unknown factor during winter months; this makes it inappropriate to apply the 15% increase to overnight and day use to arrive at annual use.

*All regional percentages come from Table 1. Since Region 6 has no fee areas, the statewide average from Table 1 was used.

In 1983, the State Park System received visits from every county in the state, every state in the Union, and from nine foreign countries; Japan, France, West Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Israel, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada.

Overnight ticket sales indicated that between May 27 and September 30, 1983, 51% of the visitors at fee collecting sites were residents of Montana. This figure was derived from permit sales at fee collection sites, and it was assumed that a similar percentage applies to statewide visitation.

**Table 3. Resident and Nonresident Visitation
At Fee Collection Sites Only**

Region	Nonresident Visitation	Resident Visitation
1	68%	32%
2	44%	56%
3	85%	15%
Canyon Ferry	27%	73%
4	22%	78%
5	4%	96%
6	no fee areas	no fee areas
7	45%	55%
Statewide	49%	51%

Where they came from: the seven most common visitor origins during the summer season, as determined by overnight camping permit sales, were

Origin	% of Total Overnight Visits
Canada	12%
Washington	9%
Yellowstone County, Montana	9%
California	6%
Missoula County, Montana	6%
Cascade County, Montana	5%
Lewis and Clark County, Montana	5%



PARK SYSTEM LAND CONTROL

Parks System Acquisitions are the responsibility of the Division's Land agent, who also manages the land acquisition and disposal program for the entire Department. In 1984, Parks acquisitions consisted of an addition of 2,199.1 acres of land during the period from July 1, 1983 through June 30, 1984. One new state recreation area was acquired and additions were made to a state park and a state recreation area. In addition, 17 new fishing access sites were added to the state park system.

The Rosebud Battlefield was reduced in size by 1,831 acres. This land was exchanged for 2,080 acres of land at Makoshika State Park and 818 acres of land along the Smith River. Eleven separate fishing access sites were acquired in this transaction. An additional 623.76 acres of land was acquired at Makoshika State Park through a patent granted by the United States at no cost. These two land transfers have increased state ownership by 2,703.76 acres.

Les Mason Memorial State Recreation Area became the newest addition to the park system in 1984. Consisting of 7.5 acres and lying on the east shore of Whitefish Lake, it was acquired by the 1983 Legislature through the use of coal tax funds.

White Bear State Recreation area, south of Great Falls along the Missouri River, increased by ten acres. The land was received through a donation.

State Fishing Access Sites increased by an additional 17. Eleven of these were acquired along the Smith River through the exchange of lands at the Rosebud Battlefield State Monument.

Ackley Lake has been used extensively by the public for fishing and camping. A formal lease agreement was entered into between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the operation and management of the lake shore. This was accomplished through a no charge lease agreement.

Como Bridge, Grey Owl and the Crump property fishing access sites were acquired through the use of state license dollars designated for the acquisition of Fishing Access Sites. These properties lie on the Bitterroot River, the Yellowstone River and the Bighorn River, respectively. All three provide access to the various rivers.

Dry Creek fishing access site was acquired through the Montana Department of Highways through a no charge recreation site easement. It provides access to the Clark Fork River.

Conservation Easements, a relatively new land preservation tool, were agreed to in 1984. Several such easements, granted to the Nature Conservancy, now exist along the Blackfoot River. The purpose of these is to preserve the scenic beauty of Blackfoot River corridor. The department also received a conservation easement on 267.8 acres, fitting in with the conservation easements acquired by Nature Conservancy. This easement was received from the Montana Department of State Lands through the 1983 Legislature which appropriated coal tax revenue funds for the purchase. Because of these easements, the Blackfoot River and all its beauty will be preserved for future generations.

Refer to the list of acquisitions for details of the above transactions.

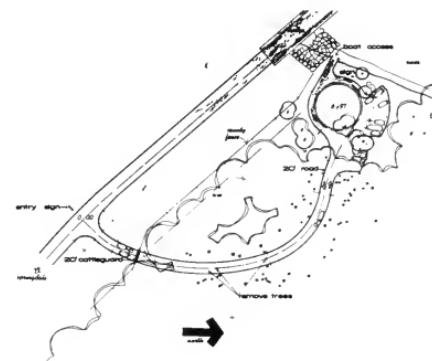
TYPE OF AREA	Number (6/30/83)	Number (6/30/84)
State Park	10	10
State Recreation Area	71	72
State Monuments	18	18
Fishing Access Sites	215	232
Total	314	332
State Recreation Road	1	1
State Recreational Trails (in Sluice Boxes State Monument)	1	1
State Recreational Waterways	5	5

Land Agent
Don Malisani

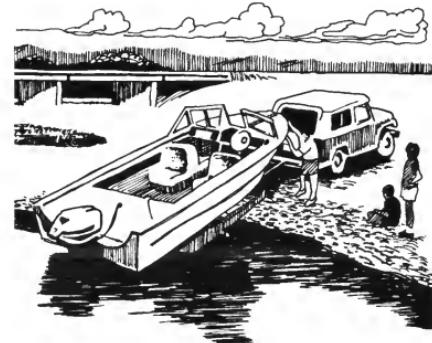
Administrative Officer IV
Dick Munro

**Acquisitions Completed Between
July 1, 1983 and June 30, 1984**

Date	Name	County	Acreage	Cost	Purpose
10/17/83	Makoshika Addition	Dawson	2,080	Exchange	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
6/20/84	Makoshika Addition	Dawson	623.76	N/C Patent	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
10/17/83	Subtract lands, exchange at the Rosebud Battlefield for lands at Makoshika SP and Smith River FAS.	Big Horn	(-1,831.00)	Exchange	(Exchanged)
12/20/83	White Bear Addition	Cascade	10.00	Donation	Picnicking, boat access.
12/30/83	Les Mason Memorial	Flathead	7.5	\$675,000.00	Picnicking, lake access, sightseeing.
10/17/83	Smith River - Eleven Sites	Cascade Meagher	540.39 277.61	Exchange	Fishing, camping, hunting, sightseeing.
11/27/83	Ackley Lake	Judith Basin	160	N/C Lease	Fishing, camping, sightseeing
6/13/84	Como Bridge	Ravalli	1.68	\$ 5,220.00	Fishing, boat access, picnicking
10/26/83	Grey Owl	Park	.28.	\$ 46,200.00	Fishing, boat access, picnicking
8/9/83	Dry Creek	Mineral	2	N/C Easement	Fishing, boat access, picnicking
6/6/84	Crump Property	Big Horn	31.36	\$ 59,584.00	Fishing, boat access, picnicking
12/1/83	Blackfoot River	Missoula	267.8	\$ 34,375.00	Conservation Easement to preserve the river corridor.



SPRINGDALE BRIDGE FAS



LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

A performance audit of the Parks Division was performed by the Legislative Auditor during FY 84. This report summarizes the results of the audit of the Division's planning and project administration functions, site selection and development procedures, and park system operation and maintenance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE AUDIT

The audit objectives were to determine if the Division is managing and using its resources efficiently and effectively in achieving desired results, and to identify the causes of any inefficiencies or ineffective practices.

MANAGEMENT MEMORANDA

In addition to the recommendations in the audit report, the auditors also made suggestions using management memoranda in three areas:

- fishing access site selection process - the Division should consider additional criteria when selecting fishing access sites.
- concessionaire audits - the Division should periodically review the financial activity of concessionaires.
- concessionaire contracts/agreements - the Division should include specific language in these agreements allowing audit access to records and facilities.

These memoranda did not require specific or formal response. The Department disagreed with the first (site selection criteria); the other two are being implemented.

SCOPE OF AUDIT

The audit focused on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Division's operation of the state parks system. It did not include a review of the financial status of the Division.

It was found that the Division was in substantial compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to division effectiveness and efficiency. For those rules and regulations not related to effectiveness or efficiency and, therefore, not tested for compliance, nothing appeared during the audit to indicate significant non-compliance.

The auditors examined and observed Division policies, procedures, management reports, and operating statistics from 1980 to 1983. They also visited a number of Division sites and regional offices.

It was noted that the Division's operation and planning function could be more closely related. Progress should be measured with a periodic evaluation of program results.

The Division's administration of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds was not reviewed since this activity was examined as part of a previous financial/compliance audit. The Division's cabin site leasing procedures were similarly not reviewed because this area was included in a performance audit done on State Lands. The Division's capitol grounds maintenance activity was not reviewed because it had been transferred to the Division during the 1983 Legislative Session and was still in a late stage of implementation.

Following are the Legislative Audit recommendations, the Department's response, and a discussion of implementation.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER ONE

- A. DEVELOP A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR THE STATE PARK SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.
- B. PERIODICALLY COMPARE ITS PERFORMANCE AGAINST ESTABLISHED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

As indicated in the audit report, the department has established a central planning unit which will address parks program goals and objectives as well as program goals and objectives for fish and wildlife. This planning unit and its mission were conceived prior to the audit and its work is well underway. The strategic plan will be completed by December 31, 1984.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER TWO

DEVELOP FORMAL RECREATION SITE SELECTION CRITERIA.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Conditionally concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Department has discretionary authority to select and acquire Fishing Access Sites. A selection process has been established. Presently, the only other acquisitions for the state park system come through the Coal Tax Parks Program. These sites are selected by the Legislature. The Department will develop selection criteria which will be available to the Legislature if it chooses to use them.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER THREE

REDESIGN THE COAL TAX PARKS ACQUISITION PROPOSAL SUMMARY TO INCLUDE A DIVISION EVALUATION OF EACH PROPOSAL.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Conditionally concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Based upon experience gained during the previous three legislative sessions, the Department is providing the Legislature the information it desires in a form acceptable to that body. However, the Department will be prepared to provide additional evaluation information and make recommendations on proposed sites if the legislature requests it.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER FOUR

LEGISLATION BE ENACTED TO CHANGE THE COAL TAX PARKS PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DATE TO JULY 1 OF THE YEAR PRECEDING THE CONVENING OF A LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Conditionally concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The department will draft such legislation if requested to do so by the Legislature.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER FIVE

- A. REVIEW CURRENTLY UNDEVELOPED SITES AND PLAN TO DEVELOP OR DISPOSE OF THEM AS NECESSARY; AND
- B. DEVELOP A STATUS SYSTEM TO PROVIDE BETTER MONITORING OF RECREATION SITE STATUS.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- A. A review of all department land holdings has been underway for about one year. The 1983 Legislative session authorized one FTE to enhance that effort. This will be an ongoing process.
- B. An automated inventory of state parks system sites is being modified to include and identify undeveloped sites.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER SIX

- A. ESTABLISH FORMAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE SIGN REQUIREMENTS AT VARIOUS RECREATION SITES.
- B. INVENTORY ALL SIGNS PRESENTLY IN PLACE AT ITS SITES FOR COMPARISON WITH THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND REPLACE OR ADD NEW SIGNS TO BRING ITS SITES INTO COMPLIANCE.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Conditionally concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- A. The Department does have policies and procedures for signing recreation sites. These were consolidated into a signing manual which were distributed to field employees for their use.
- B. Sites will be inventoried routinely on an annual basis. It may be necessary to request additional appropriations and FTE authority to upgrade the signing system. Once in place, ongoing maintenance of the signs can be accomplished using routine operations funding.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER SEVEN

PERIODIC INSPECTION OF ITS SITES TO INCLUDE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Seasonal caretakers routinely inventory the facilities at each site as part of their responsibilities when sites are opened each spring. It will be required that such inventories include an inspection for potentially hazardous situations. Capital construction project proposals are presently subjected to a ranking system which ranks correction of health and safety problems as highest priority. This procedure will be continued.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER EIGHT

ESTABLISH FORMAL CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING FEE CHARGE RECREATION SITES AND SETTING FEE LEVELS.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Conditionally concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Presently, the Division collects fees at sites where it can effectively generate revenue and where the manpower is available. Establishing and implementing more formal criteria will likely increase the number of sites at which fees should be charged. Additionally, there are sites where fees are charged, but the manpower is not available to collect seven days per week or to collect from all campers on a given day. In order to correct these problems and to implement a more formal fee collection criteria, additional funding and FTE authority must be secured from the Legislature. The Department will include such a request when preparing its budget for consideration by the 1985 session.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER NINE**ESTABLISH FORMAL CRITERIA FOR SETTING CONCESSIONAIRE FEES.****DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:**

Concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The criteria will be established by December 31, 1984.

AUDIT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER TEN**WE RECOMMEND THE DIVISION CONSIDER REASSIGNING OR HIRING A SEASONAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR CANYON FERRY RECREATION AREA DURING THE HEAVY USAGE MONTHS.****DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:**

Concur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

A full time Parks Operation Specialist Officer will be hired and assigned to Canyon Ferry to provide additional enforcement coverage during high use months, and to assist with park management duties on a year-round basis.

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**Proposal Evaluations**

The audit report takes exception to the acquisition of three sites (Spring Meadow Lake, Lake Elmo, and Glen Lake) because they are in or near urban areas and

therefore are inappropriate for the state park system. The report refers to ARM Section 12.8.103 which in-part states "... state recreation areas should not be furnished in lieu of municipal, county or federal facilities."

The state park system has historically been a product of the Legislature and has undergone a long evolution which recently has added an urban park element; that is appropriate. What is actually needed is for the Department to review and revise its state park system criteria. This will be done as a part of the Department and Division long range planning process.

Undeveloped Recreation Sites

With one exception, (Bridger Bowl State Park which will be disposed of as surplus) the areas listed in the audit report are Fishing Access Sites. Many are undeveloped, a result of funding shortages. This issue has been brought before each legislative session for a number of years and some progress has been made. However, the Legislature continues to emphasize acquisition over maintenance and development. This is primarily due to expressed public opinion by those who pay the fees. Funding for the program sets aside a portion of Fishing License revenues for acquisition and a lesser amount for maintenance and development. In 1981, the session increased the maintenance and development share, but continues to favor acquisition.

Users who "pay the bill" resist any lessening of the acquisition program and have hesitantly accepted the lessening which has occurred to date. The audit report suggests a course of action that the Department does not have the authority to implement as it can only do what is authorized by the Legislature. As much money is spent on maintenance and development as each session approves.

Division Liability

The Department certainly desires to do everything reasonable, justifiable and necessary to protect the safety of site visitors, not only from a liability standpoint, but from a humanitarian point of view. However, the ends of the spectrum, i. e. where the department clearly has responsibility and where it clearly does not, are not easy to define. There is a vast gray area in which a good deal of subjective judgment is required. On various past occasions, meetings have been conducted with legal counsel about specific situations; as a result, the following philosophy has been developed:

1. The Department should design and construct safe facilities.
2. The Department should maintain its facilities and sites in a safe condition.
3. It is not reasonable to expect the Department to protect visitors from all the "natural hazards" which one would normally confront in a "natural environment." The recreationist must take some responsibility for his own actions and respect the natural features of an area.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUREAU

The Operation and Maintenance Bureau has charge of all personnel, budget and field operation matters. This Bureau also directly supervises the Park System operations at Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Parks Division Personnel

During FY 1984, the Parks Division had 86.88 FTE of which 45.75 were permanent employees and 41.13 were seasonal and/or temporary. Helena-based personnel occupied 18.65 FTE and 68.23 FTE were in the field.

Personnel changes within the Division during FY 1984 involved a number of people:

Don Hyppa was selected as Administrator of the Parks Division after serving as Acting Administrator.

Mason Niblack was employed as Assistant Administrator and Operations Bureau Chief to replace Don.

Sue Woodring Daly was promoted from Administrative Secretary to Administrative Officer I, filling a position which had been vacant.

Gerri Brusett was employed as Administrative Secretary to replace Sue.

Janice Williamson resigned as Secretary II.

Lila Pierson was employed to replace Janice as Secretary II.

Jeanette Bingham accepted a transfer to the Personnel Division.

Mary Nell Johnson was employed to replace Jeanette as Office Clerk.

Dick Munro was transferred from the Director's Staff (where he worked on resource extraction mitigation measures) to the Parks Division to assist in department land matters.

Bob McKenna resigned as Canyon Ferry Reservoir Park Operations Supervisor.

Tom Campbell accepted a transfer to Canyon Ferry to replace Bob.

Rich Misplon was promoted from Civil Engineer II to replace Tom Campbell as Civil Engineer III.

Milt Dkystra was employed to replace Rich as Civil Engineer II.

Jeff Larsen was employed as a Civil Engineer II in a newly created position.

Jack Ehlers was employed as the Groundskeeper Supervisor when responsibility for the Capitol Grounds maintenance was transferred by the 1983 Legislature from the Department of Administration to the Parks Division.

Terry Knupp accepted a transfer to Region 5 to fill a newly created Park Operations Specialist II position. The Planner position she vacated was eliminated due to reorganization. Later in the year, she accepted a promotion to replace:

Anthony Buechel, Region 1 Park Manager in Kalispell, retired in July.

Mark Soderlind transferred from Region 1 to a new position at Canyon Ferry as a Park Operations Specialist I.

Marty Watkins was employed to fill the Park Operations Specialist I position vacated by Mark. This position was made a part time position upon Mark's transfer.

Dan Vincent was promoted from Regional Parks Manager to Regional Supervisor in Region 4.

Dave Todd transferred from Lewis & Clark Caverns, accepting the Regional Parks Manager's job in Region 4.

John Little accepted a transfer from Glasgow headquarters of Region 6 to replace Dave Todd at Lewis & Clark Caverns as a Park Operations Supervisor.

Bob Stordahl accepted the Region 6 Parks Division responsibilities and has been acting as Park Operations Specialist II since John's transfer to the Caverns.

Dave Conklin accepted a transfer from Region 7, headquartered in Miles City, to Helena to work on the Director's staff as a Department Planner.

Doug Monger was promoted to Regional Parks Manager in Region 7 from Park Operations Specialist I in Bozeman, Region 3.

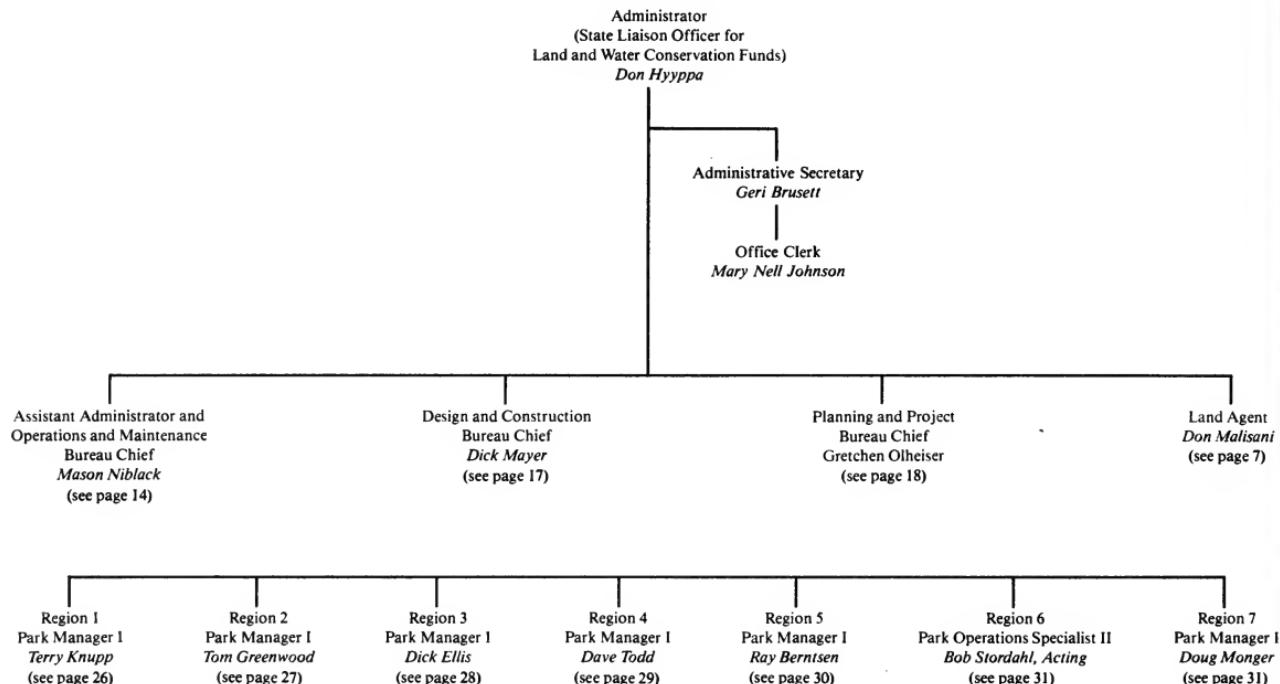
Doug Haberman was employed to replace Doug Monger as Park Operations Specialist I in Region 3.

Jerry Walker was promoted from Park Operations Specialist I to Park Operations Specialist II in Region 5, headquartered in Billings, replacing Terry Knupp who had left for Region 1.

Rich Pittsley was employed to replace Jerry as Park Operations Specialist I in Billings, Region 5.

PARKS DIVISION PERSONNEL CHART

June 30, 1984

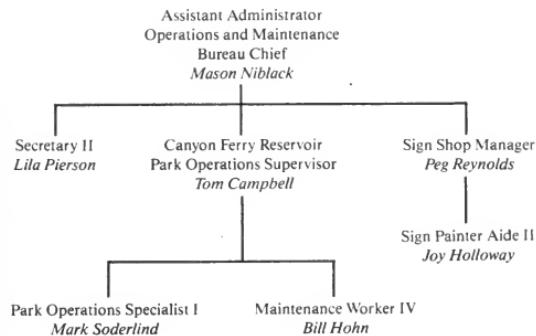


Funding and Expenditures

Operations and Maintenance Funding for the Parks Division comes from several sources. The General Fund, Miscellaneous Parks Revenue, and Parks Earned Revenue sources can be used in support of any Division activity or program. All other funding sources, however, are earmarked—their use is restricted to specific sites or activities.

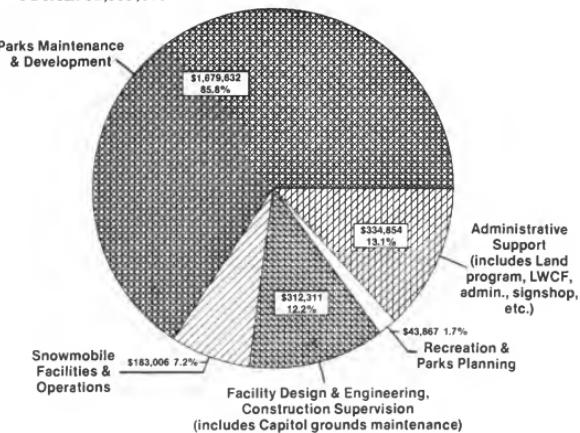
A portion of the Coal Severance Tax Trust Revenue is used for maintenance of sites purchased with interest from the Coal Tax Trust Fund (see page 25). Motorboat Fuel Tax Revenue is used for the operation and development of sites on or adjacent to waterways where motorboating takes place. Sportsmen license revenues are used for maintenance of fishing access and other heavily used outdoor areas. Earned revenue funding reflects overnight camping fees, Lewis and Clark Caverns tour fees, and cabin site leases. Other miscellaneous revenues include the Land and Water Conservation Fund and donations.

The pie charts on this page reflect the Parks Division operation and maintenance activities for FY 1984, exhibited first in expenditure categories, second as expended from funding sources. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is not included as it does not bear directly on operations and maintenance funding in the Parks Division. For the same reason, no capital expenditures are included—a further description of these may be found on page 19.



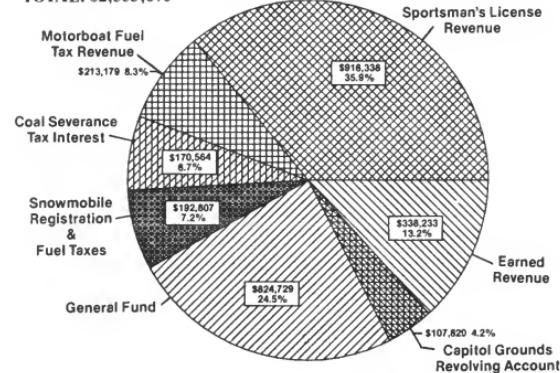
OPERATING COSTS FISCAL YEAR 1984

TOTAL: \$2,553,670



FUNDING SOURCES FISCAL YEAR 1984

TOTAL: \$2,553,670



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION BUREAU

The Design and Construction Bureau operates within and deals with various aspects of the Parks Division, but additionally provides a service to the entire Department. The main thrust of the Bureau is design, construction and rehabilitation of parks facilities. This involves not only the construction of facilities, but also preliminary master site planning, archaeological and historical studies, property surveys and consultation during land acquisition matters.

The Design and Construction Bureau also oversees the development and maintenance of the Capitol Complex. This year the Bureau also maintained the grounds at the Warehouse Complex in Helena and Spring Meadow State Recreation Area.

During FY 1983, the following master site plans and studies were completed:

Capt. Clark (revised)
Manuel Lisa (revised)
Gle- Lake
Elmo
Warehouse Complex
Animal Shelter Area
Hannon Memorial Fishing Access Site
Giant Springs Vista Decks and Parking Areas
Council Grove Groundwater and River Hydraulic Studies
Warehouse Property Studies
Bitterroot Lake Day Use Area
Statewide Regional Headquarters Studies
New Latrine Designs
Georgetown Lake State Recreation Area
Lake Elmo State Recreation Area
Les Mason State Recreation Area
Foy's Lake State Recreation Area
Shady Lane Fishing Access Site
St. Regis Fishing Access Site

Big Timber Bridge Fishing Access Site

Dry Creek Fishing Access Site

Como Bridge Fishing Access Site

Tucker Crossing Fishing Access Site

Bannack Apex Mill Study

Bannack Toxic Material Study

Shields River Fishing Access Site

Signing Plans

Site graphics are an important part of the Parks system. The Bureau continually strives to upgrade site graphics to help a visitor find his way to a site and understand the rules and interpretive aspects of an area. All sites shown on the Recreation Map distributed to the public must have directional signing. Some of the sign plans prepared were:

- Lone Pine State Park
- Helena Warehouse Complex and Wild Animal Shelter
- Grey Owl Fishing Access Sites
- Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site
- Self Service Camping Area at Canyon Ferry
- Giant Springs State Park



Development Projects

The following is a list of the Parks Division construction and development projects for FY 1984:

FY 1984 CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SITE	PROJECT	COMPLETION DATE	COST
Animal Shelter	Landscaping	06-84	\$ 10,000
Black Sandy SRA	Seeding	05-25-84	17,000
Silo's SRA	Roadwork	11-14-83	104,000
Canyon Ferry SRA	Roadwork	06-08-84	23,000
Cooney SRA	Facilities	06-05-84	7,000
Fort Owen SM	Utilities	10-17-83	9,000
Lone Pine SP	Road Visitor Center	06-22-84	300,000
Tongue Reservoir SRA	Roadwork	06-04-84	20,000
Two Leggins FAS	Roadwork	04-17-84	12,000
Intake FAS	Facilities	Under Construction	10,000
Carter's Bridge FAS	Roadwork	Under Construction	25,000
Spring Meadow Lake SRA	Foot Bridge	Under Construction	Donation
Giant Springs SP	Hatchery	Under Construction	1,900,000
Big Timber	Hatchery	Under Construction	500,000
Creston	Hatchery	Under Construction	455,000
Giant Springs SP	Paving	06-12-84	104,000
Glasgow	Headquarters	Under Construction	220,000
Helena	Hdqts. Remodel	Under Construction	7,000
Yellow Bay SRA	Latrine	06-12-84	5,000
Whitetail Dam	Spillway	Under Construction	8,000
Kalispell Headquarters	Storage Bldg.	Under Construction	30,000
Rosebud Battlefield SM	Fencing	06-25-84	9,000
Makoshika SP	Paving	Under Construction	158,000
Kokanee Bend FAS	Roadwork	Under Construction	25,000
Grey Owl FAS	Roadwork	Under Construction	25,000
Giant Springs SP	Vista Point	06-84	Donation
Lost Creek SP	Well	Under Construction	4,000
Shady Lane FAS	Roadwork	06-28-84	8,000
Bannack SP	Bridges	08-11-84	22,000

PROJECTS IN PLANNING STAGES

(Working on Design)

Logan FAS	Sewage System
County Line FAS	Roadwork
Chief Plenty Coups SM	Footpaths
Lewis and Clark Caverns SP	Electrical
Captain Clark FAS	Roadwork
Camp Baker FAS	Roadwork
Bean Lake FAS	Roadwork
South Sandstone SRA	Dam Repairs
Pictograph Cave SM	Foottrail
Johnsrud FAS	Roadwork
Gartside Reservoir	Dam Repairs
Pipe Organ FAS	Bridge
Hannon FAS	Roadwork
Fort Owen SM	Foundation
White Earth SRA	Well
Bannack SP	Fire Protection System

Litigation

The Department continues its involvement in a lawsuit by homeowners in Missoula whose claim is that the Department did not maintain a dike on the Clark Fork River. Hydrometrics, Inc. has studied this situation and Ernest Pemberton has studied the river hydraulics to provide expert testimony in this case.

Department Wide Projects

The Design and Construction Bureau has been involved in various projects outside the Parks Division utilizing the expertise of the professionals on staff. The expertise tapped included landscape architecture, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, land surveying, and graphics.

Design and Construction Bureau activities that went beyond Parks Division responsibility concerned the following sites:

Animal Shelter

Warehouse-Helena

Fish Hatchery at Creston

Great Falls Fish Hatchery

Big Timber Fish Hatchery

Glasgow Regional Headquarters

Relocation of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Print Shop

Remodeling the Helena Headquarters

Kalispell Storage Building

Miles City Office Counter

Traveling Displays for:

Bannack

Plenty Coups

Snowmobile Program

Helena Lobby Displays

Arlee Fish Hatchery

Property Surveys

The following surveys are being accomplished by retaining the services of an outside surveyor. The responsibility for their completion and work quality will remain with the Design and Construction Bureau:

McLaurin FAS

Fort Owen SM

Como Bridge FAS

Grey Owl FAS from the County Line

Crump property

Shed's Bridge FAS

Parker Homestead FAS

Captain Clark FAS

Capitol Complex

1984 was the second year of Department responsibility for maintenance of the Capitol Complex. Most grounds maintenance cleanup, mowing, trimming, and edging activities were put out to bid. Contracts for pruning, chemical application, and the supervision of a Green Thumb crew were also included. Bureau personnel supervised activity under these contracts on a daily basis.

The Bureau was responsible for snow removal throughout the winter season. In addition to the operation of snow removal equipment, personnel were also needed to perform hand snow shoveling.

Spring Meadow State Recreation Area

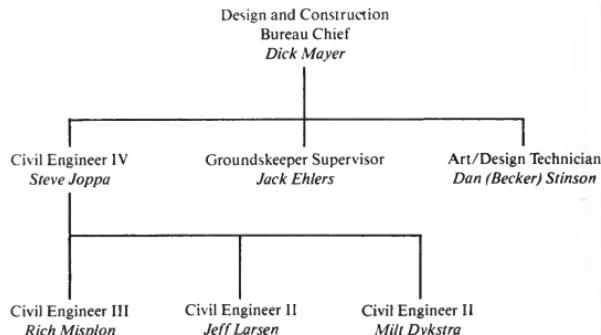
The Bureau periodically maintained the area on a year-round basis. This included the contracting of weed control with the Lewis and Clark County Weed Control Board. In coordination with the Spring Meadow citizen volunteer group, two foot bridges and a trail were installed.

Helena Warehouse Complex

The area was maintained and a contract executed with the Lewis and Clark County Weed Control Board to control weeds at the site.

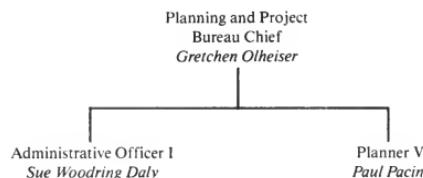
Other Projects

The Design and Construction Bureau was involved in various types of special studies required for design and construction of sites. Such studies included, but were not restricted to archaeological and historic studies.



PLANNING & PROJECT ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

The Planning and Project Administration Bureau has a variety of responsibilities. Among these are two grant programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Snowmobile Program. SCORP planning, required by the LWCF Program, is done within the Bureau and related Divisional planning is meshed with this responsibility. During the past year, administration of the Coal Tax Park Acquisition Program was coordinated between this Bureau and the Administrator's office.



The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program which provides grants to states and their political subdivisions to assist with acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Grants may be used to fund up to 50 percent of outdoor recreation project costs.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was designated by law in 1965 as the state agency responsible for administration of the program with the Parks Division actually administering the program. In the 19 years since the program's inception, Montana has received \$28,099,749 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. With the 50 percent matching requirement, this has resulted in \$56,199,498 being expended on outdoor recreation areas and facilities in Montana as a direct result of the Fund.

In Fiscal Year 1983-84, Montana's Land and Water Conservation Fund regular apportionment totaled \$675,096.00. In addition, under the Federal Emergency Jobs Act of 1983, (Public Law 98-8), additional Fund dollars were made available to the States. Montana's share of this successful program was \$370,330.00. All of this was allocated to local community projects.

REGULAR APPORTIONMENT, \$675,096.00

The Parks Division received 35 applications from local communities totaling over 1 1/2 million dollars. Because of limited funding, a \$50,000.00 project ceiling amount was established. This enabled the fund to be distributed to a diversity of projects and localities.

JOBS BILL APPORTIONMENT, \$370,330.00

Twenty-one counties and forty-three communities were identified as high unemployment impact areas and were targeted to receive the funds. Available funds not utilized by the targeted areas were awarded to the remaining applicants in order of ranked evaluation.

Thirty-two applications for LWCF Jobs Bill Grants were submitted to the Parks Division totaling over \$812,000.00. The applications were separated and evaluated in two groups: (1) those from targeted areas of high unemployment were evaluated and ranked first, then qualifying projects were awarded grants, (2) the balance of Montana's apportionment was awarded to the project application from outside the targeted areas which received the highest ranking following the evaluation of those applications.

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks projects were funded out of the regular apportionment. No Jobs Bill funds were utilized within the State Parks system.

The 1984 State Parks System Site Improvement Projects, authorized by House Bill 833 during the 48th Legislative Assembly, are the result of benefits gained from the purchase and donation of Wild Horse Island in several past fiscal years. Wild Horse Island was purchased in seven parcels with the Bourke MacDonald family donating half the value of the land to the State Park system. In 1984, State Park Site Improvement Projects will be funded entirely with Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars as a result of the generous donation of the MacDonald family.

Because of the enthusiasm demonstrated throughout the state by local governments of all sizes, it is hoped this program can remain active in its cooperative effort to create and upgrade outdoor recreation facilities for the citizens and guests of Montana.

**1984 STATE PARK SYSTEM
SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (LWCF)
HB 833-48 Legislative Assembly**

SITE	IMPROVEMENTS	LWCF \$
Madison Buffalo Jump State Monument	Interpretive Displays	\$ 5,760
Logan State Recreation Area	Sanitary Facilities	92,160
Yellow Bay State Recreation Area	Sanitary Facilities	9,216
Pictograph Cave State Monument	Road, parking, picnic area, trail and signs	46,080
Plenty Coups State Monument	Roadwork, walkways, sanitary facilities and signs	43,776
Bannack State Park	Visitor Center, fencing	177,687
Total New State Projects		\$374,679

AMENDMENTS

Old Steel Bridge FAS	155
Rookery SRA	5,876
Bell Crossing FAS	1,018
Kila FAS	1,181
Giant Springs SP	25,420
Les Mason SRA	14,788
Total Amendments	48,438
Total State Projects (regular apportionment)	\$423,177

FAS — Fishing Access Site

SRA — State Recreation Area

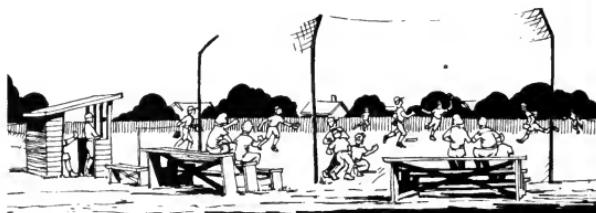
SP — State Park

**LOCAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECTS
(Regular Apportionment)**

SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	LWCF \$
Missoula	Caras Park Improvements	\$ 45,139.50
Big Fork SD#38	Recreation Area	36,000.00
Seeley Lake SD#34	Community Park	25,000.00
Virginia City	Community Park	13,101.50
Fallon County	Rifle Range and Trap Shoot	31,250.00
Sidney	Three Parks Improvements	26,000.00
Anaconda/Deer Lodge	West Valley Park Improvement	11,000.00
Ravalli County	Florence Community Park	13,083.00
Wyola SD#29	Pool and Recreation Area	35,610.00
Total New Local Projects		\$236,184.00

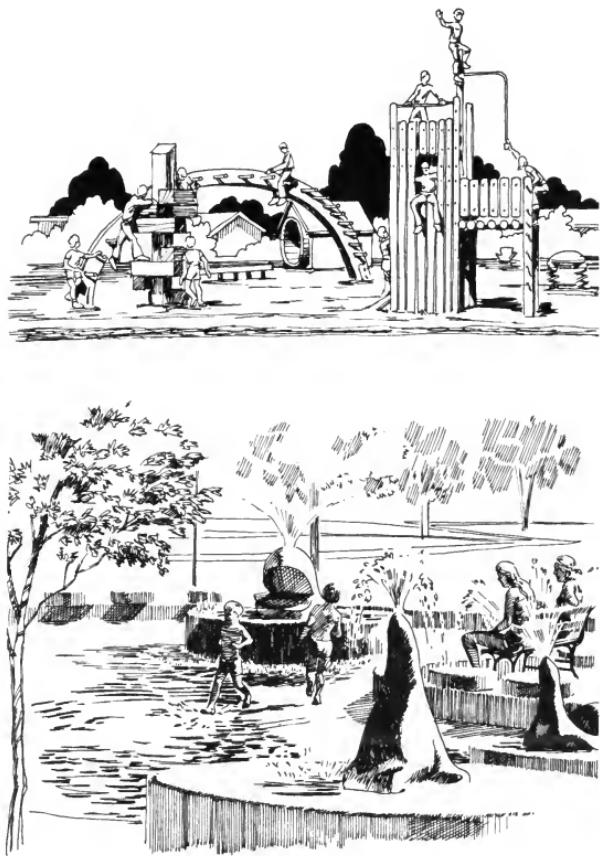
AMENDMENTS

Kila	Community Park	49.00
Glendive	Lloyd Square Park	1,319.00
Total Amendments		1,368.00
Total Local Projects (regular apportionment)		\$237,552.00



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND — JOBS BILL

SPONSOR	PROJECT	LWCF AMOUNT
Flathead County	Foys Lake Development	4,000.00
Mineral County	St. Regis Park Improvements	3,000.00
Lewistown	Three Parks Improvements	7,500.00
Shelby	Parks Improvements	17,500.00
Blaine County	Zurich Park Improvements	5,902.50
Butte-Silver Bow	Central Park Development	30,000.00
Hamilton School Dist. #3	Tennis/Basketball Courts	25,000.00
Circle	Park Improvements	3,500.00
Broadus	Cottonwood Park Improvements	14,150.00
Roundup	Bathhouse Renovation & Tennis Court	30,000.00
Pinesdale	R.C. Allred Memorial Park	3,750.00
Chinook	Tennis & Ballfield Improvements	11,700.00
Bozeman	Kirk & Cooper Parks Improvements	12,978.00
Ravalli County	Golf Course Improvements	2,500.00
Superior	Eva Horning Park Improvements	3,897.50
Libby	Ballfield Bleachers	15,500.00
Cascade	Tennis Court Renovation	10,220.00
Scobey	Pool Renovation	5,000.00
Red Lodge	Zoo Facilities	51,930.00
Butte-Silver Bow	Addition to Father Sheehan Park	13,058.50
Missoula County	Golf Course Improvements	11,986.50
Billings	Riverfront Park Addition	87,257.00
	Total	\$370,330.00



FEDERAL EMERGENCY JOBS BILL — SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TREES AND SHRUBS PROGRAM

The United States Small Business Administration granted \$151,400.00 to Montana under the Federal Emergency Jobs Bill (Public Law 98-8).

Local communities were notified of the availability of these funds which were used to purchase and plant trees and shrubs on public lands, thereby creating short term jobs that would result in long term beautification.

Thirty-five applications were received with requests for grants totaling over \$365,000.00. Applications were screened and evaluated. Priority was given to those areas within the 21 counties and 31 communities which had been identified as areas of high unemployment.

This one-time grant program successfully illustrated the responsibility of local governments and their commitment to beautification of their park and public lands.

The Parks Division was designated as the administering agency for this particular grant program.



EMERGENCY JOBS BILL SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TREES AND SHRUBS PROGRAM

SPONSOR	GRANT
Town of Superior	\$ 2,915
City of Polson	9,470
Town of Alberton	4,004
Lincoln County	11,180
Town of Stevensville	1,185
City of Hamilton	3,000
Park County	1,930
City of Whitefish	6,190
City of Lewistown	11,336
City of Chinook	22,900
Missoula County	6,040
City of Roundup	6,182
City of Bozeman	2,934
City of Big Sandy	1,021
Blaine County	8,125
City of Scobey	3,300
City of Harlowton	9,500
Cascade County	11,475
City of Wolf Point	20,000
Total Grants	\$142,687
Contingency	8,713
	\$151,400

The Snowmobile Program... A Dimension of Winter Recreation

In spite of a low snow year in 1984, the sport of snowmobiling enjoyed a 5% increase in use, according to the Department's trail counter information.

Trail grooming and parking lot plowing activity occurred on a regular basis throughout the season although the frequency of those operations was reduced because of the lack of snow.

In Fiscal 1984, approximately \$166,741 was expended on operation, maintenance, development, and the administration of Montana's snowmobile program. This included the purchase of one used LMC 2100 groomer for use in the Lincoln area. The LMC 1200 located at Lincoln was transferred to the Department's Regional office in Kalispell for use in the shuttle program that transports the groomer between Lincoln County and the Marias Pass area.

Funding was available at year's end to completely rebuild the LMC 2100 located in West Yellowstone. This piece of equipment will be transferred to the Kings Hill area for the 1984-85 season.

Also due to funds remaining because of the low snow year, the Department was able to purchase the Bombardier 252 from West Yellowstone. This piece of equipment had been leased to the Department by the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce Snowmobile Trail Grooming Committee for use in the Gallatin and Bridger Canyon trail systems. The Bombardier will remain in use in those areas.

During Fiscal Year 1984, the Parks Snowmobile Program purchased four new snowmobiles to replace worn-out equipment.

Montana's snowmobile program derives its revenue from two sources — 1) \$2 registration fees, and 2) a share of Montana's gasoline tax (5/10 of 1% of the state's distributor gasoline tax is earmarked for snowmobiling). The Parks Division receives \$1 from every snowmobile registered plus 90 percent of the dollars generated through the gasoline tax. (The remainder of the fuel tax allocation and the registration fee goes to the Enforcement Division for enforcement of snowmobile laws and for safety education.



SNOWMOBILE PROJECT SUMMARY 1983-84

TRAIL GROOMING		
Location	Miles	Dollars
Lincoln	110	\$ 5,216
Sweetgrass County	15	1,298
Cooke City	50	19,869
West Yellowstone	150	42,369
Bozeman	100	7,701
Marias Pass, Fortine & Libby	408	3,918
Flathead Trails	100	13,928
Ronan	30	937
Seeley Lake	150	6,613
Helena	100	4,870
Wise River	68	1,365
Kings Hill	75	6,097
Missoula	60	7,045
Miles City	10	821
Anaconda	75	1,517
Dillon	65	1,000
	1,566	\$124,564

PLOWING			
		ADMINISTRATION	
Miles City	\$ 250	Helena	\$12,646
Missoula	226	Kalispell (R-1)	1,709
Kings Hill	1,839	Missoula (R-2)	3,377
Waldron Creek (Teton Pass)	210	Bozeman (R-3)	2,545
Mt. Haggan	720	Great Falls (R-4)	2,157
	\$3,245	Billings (R-5)	966
		Miles City (R-7)	829
			\$24,229

DEVELOPMENT	MAJOR EQUIPMENT
Miles City	MAINTENANCE
\$250	\$14,453

SUMMARY

Grooming	\$123,564
Plowing	3,245
Administration	25,229
Development	250
Major Equipment Maintenance	14,453
	\$166,741

**SNOWMOBILE COUNTS
ON
GROOMED TRAILS**

		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 1	Canyon Creek, Flathead Co.	1030	3250	+216%
	Crane Mountain, Flathead Co.	NC	190	—
	Lost Johnny, Flathead Co.	580	580*1	0%
	Olney, Flathead Co.	1410	570	-60%
	Trumbull Creek, Flathead Co.	1180	1010	-14%
	Purcell Loop, Libby	1750	1750*1	0%
	Skyland, Marias Pass	3050	3050*1	0%
	Fortine Trail	1060	1060*1	0%
Regional Total		10,060	11,460	+14%
		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 2	Beaver Creek, Lincoln	990	6002	-39%
	Copper Creek, Lincoln	480	3202	-33%
	Martin Mountain Trail, Lincoln	180	NC1,2	0%
	McDonald Meadows, Lincoln	160	NC1,2	0%
	Seeley-Lincoln	150	3602	+140%
	Regional Total		77,410	77,500
		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 2	Sucker Creek, Lincoln	420	NC1,2	—
	Blue Mountain, Missoula	200	370	+85%
	East Fork, Lolo Creek, Missoula	540	440	-19%
	Elk Meadows, Missoula	1170	410	-65%
	Garnet Road, Missoula	630	870	+38%
	Granite Creek Road, Missoula	510	320	-49%
	Gold Creek, Missoula	390	390*	0%
	Lolo Pass, Missoula	1070	920	-14%
	Miller Creek, Missoula	130	150	+15%
	Double Arrow, Seeley	160	360	+125%
	Fawn Creek, Seeley	650	650	0%
	Marshall-Mt. Henry, Seeley	550	610	11%
	Rice Ridge-West Morrell, Seeley	680	690	+1%
	Woodworth-Cottonwood Road, Seeley	140	180	+29%
	Mineral Mtn., Missoula	NC	340	—
	Jocko Pass, Missoula	NC	240	—
	Blind Canyon-East Morrell, Seeley	NC	230	—
Regional Total		9,200	8,450	-8%

		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 3	Bracket, Bozeman	1530	1580	+3%
	Buck Creek, Bozeman	720	1240	+72%
	Carrot Basin, Bozeman	1060	700	-34%
	Fairy Road, Bozeman	300	490	+63%
	Olson, Bozeman	730	1520	+108%
	Cooke City	19,200	12,770	-33%
	Wise River	1080	890	-18%
	West Yellowstone	52,790	55,430	+5%
	Elkhorn-Wise River	NC	2470	—
Comet Ridge, Dillon		NC	410	—
Regional Total		77,410	77,500	0%
		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 4	Austin, Helena	1210	1210*	0%
	Maggie, Helena	130	NC1	—
	Marysville, Helena	850	NC1	—
	Minnehaha, Helena	750	750*	0%
	Divide Road, Kings Hill	1430	2540	+78%
	Jefferson Trail, Kings Hill	1190	1920	+61%
	Parking Lot, Kings Hill	4760	7800	+64%
	Powerline, Kings Hill	870	1850	+113%
	Teton Pass, Waldron Creek	1230	1230*	0%
Regional Total		12,420	17,300	+39%
		Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Snowmobiles in 1983-84	Percent Difference
Trail				
Region 5	No Counted Trails			
	No Groomed Trails			
	No Counted Trails			
Region 6				
Region 7				
State Total		109,090	114,710	+5%

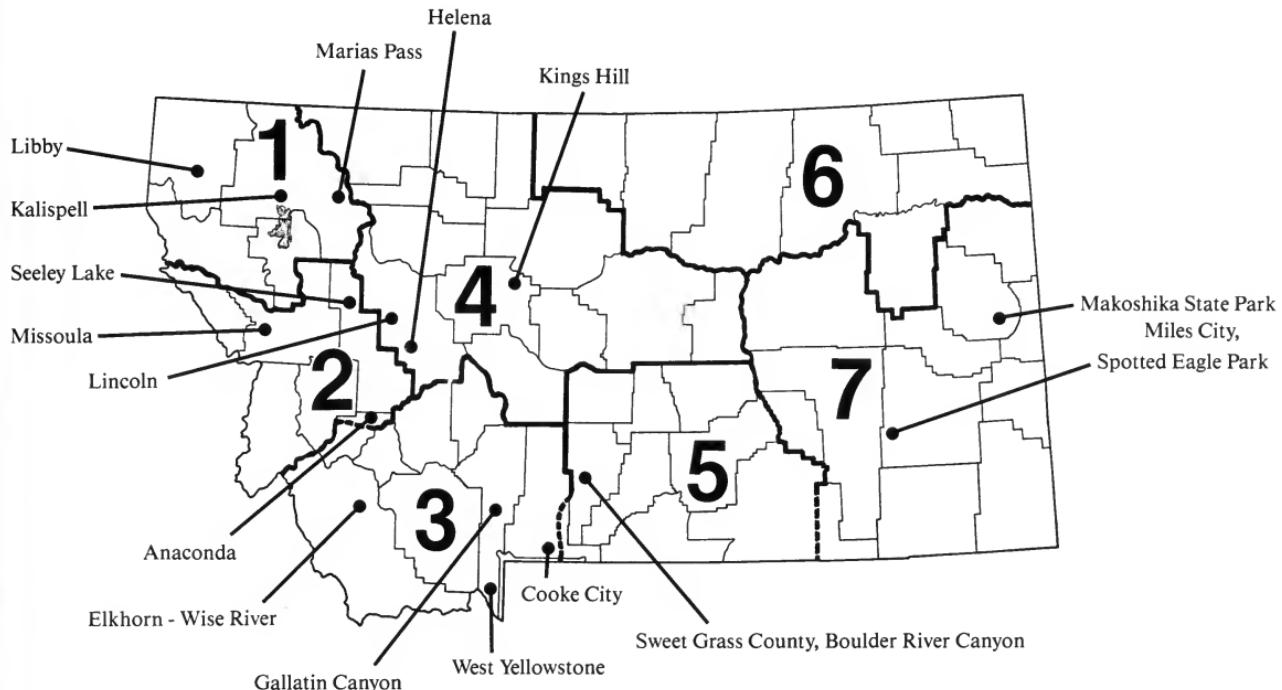
NC = No Count

* no count available, using previous year's count

1—no count available due to lack of snow

2—Forest Service Count, Gerry Burns

The Snowmobile Program Provides Groomed Trails



The Coal Tax ...

Helping Provide Parks for Montana

In 1975, the 44th Legislature initiated a state coal severance tax. Two-thirds of five percent, of fifty percent, (1.67%) of coal severance tax collections are allocated to an earmarked trust fund for the purpose of acquisition, operation, and maintenance of park system sites.

Any person, association, or representative of a governing unit may submit a proposal for the acquisition of a site or area that would meet State Park System qualifications. This proposal must be submitted to the Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks by December 1 of the year preceding the convening of a legislative session.

The Fish and Game Commission shall then present to the Legislature, by the 15th day of the legislative session, a list of areas, sites, or objects that were proposed for purchase for use as state parks, state recreational areas, state monuments, or state historical sites with money contained in the earmarked account.

The chart below briefly summarizes acquisitions made between the inception of the law in 1977, and 1984.

	Acquisitions Made With the Coal Tax	County	Acreage	Appraisal, Survey, and Title Cost	Purchased Cost	Lease Cost
December, 1977	Roche Jaune SRA	Custer	1.0	\$ 460.75	\$ 19,600	
June, 1978	Bannack SP addition	Beaverhead	1 lot	-0-	1,850	
June, 1978	Powder River Depot SM	Prairie	easement	1,203.75	-0-	
August, 1978	Council Grove SM	Missoula	186.0	3,287.50	140,000	
October, 1978	Rosebud Battlefield SM	Big Horn	4883.0	4,070.76	881,160	
January, 1979	Makoshika SP Addition	Dawson	650.36	1,847.50	143,900	
July, 1979	Giant Springs-Heritage SP Addition	Cascade	28.6	1,800.00	97,500	
August, 1979	Lake Josephine (leased to city)	Yellowstone	-0-	4,106.16	125,000	
August, 1981	Spring Meadow Lake SRA	Lewis & Clark	55.8	714.55	293,000	
April, 1982	Pirogue (Doeden's) Island SRA	Custer	269.0	3,074.04	110,000	
			29.79		420,000	
June, 1983	Lake Elmo, Billings	Yellowstone	80.67	-0-	1,000,000	
June, 1983	Lake Elmo, Billings	Yellowstone	42.17	-0-		100,000/4yr
November, 1983	Blackfoot River Easement	Missoula	267.8	23,815.00	34,375	
December, 1983	Les Mason Memorial, Whitefish Lake	Flathead	7.5	-0-	675,000	
December, 1983	Bannack-Warnake	Beaverhead	1 lot	80.00	7,000	
July, 1984	Bannack-Fisher	Beaverhead	1 lot		77.00	8,500
October, 1984	Bannack-Brewer	Beaverhead	1 lot	85.00	10,000	
Pending	Clark's Lookout, Dillon	Beaverhead	7.23	-0-	40,739	
Pending	Glen Lake, Bozeman	Gallatin	6.16	pending	-0-	
Pending	Pageville School, Twin Bridges	Madison	0.66	-0-		15,000/50yr
Pending	Parker Homestead, Three Forks	Jefferson	1.67	-0-		2,500/25yr
	Total		6,564.32	\$46,935.96	\$4,007,624	\$117,500.00
	Total Cost:		\$4,172,059.96			
	Other Matching Funds:		\$50,786.42			
	Coal Tax Funds:		\$3,621,273.54			



BANNACK SP

THE REGIONS

The Parks Division maintains the same administrative regions as the other Divisions of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks with a few modifications in boundary detail. Each of the seven major regions has a regional headquarters office and is administratively patterned after the Department's overall structure. Regional supervisors administer a staff of division managers, e.g., a parks manager administers the Parks program.

Region 1

Several new projects were started or completed in Region one.

The visitor center at Lone Pine State Park was completed and the park officially opened on August 26. A cooperative management plan for the Lone Pine Recreational Area (which includes the state park, the state access on Foy's Lake, the Herron County Park and the Foy's Lake County Park) was prepared jointly by DFWP and the Flathead County Parks and Recreation Department. The County agreed to provide a programmer for the visitor center, who will be paid through fees charged for use of the center. An interpretive overlook trail was constructed with help from the Community Action Program, Kalispell Pole and Timber, and an Army Reserve unit. Several local service clubs donated interpretive signs.

In 1984, the Wild Horse Island Ranger was stationed on the mainland rather than on the island to experiment with the effectiveness of mainland administration. The Ranger also completed a lot acquisition criteria plan and provided additional park law enforcement at Elmo, Big Arm and Walstad SRA's.

A day-use fee study was conducted at Wayfarer's and Yellow Bay SRA's. Two methods of collection were compared. At Wayfarer's, fees were collected from a ticket booth at the front entrance gate. At Yellow Bay, they were collected by the roving resident attendant. Both systems generated needed revenue and served as helpful management tools.

A self-service fee collection system was tried at Ashley Lake SRA. Although this system did not financially break even, it provided a higher revenue-to-cost ration than the previous method, needed less maintenance and helped prevent some vandalism problems experienced there in the past. An overnight boat dockage fee was collected at Finley Point SRA and three new boat slips were added.

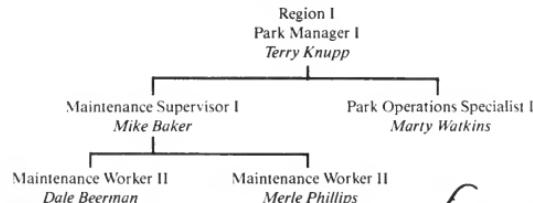
Mowing to control Knapweed was done at Elmo, Big Arm and Thompson Falls SRA. Two experimental plots for weed control were set up at Big Arm.

Preliminary Environmental Reviews were completed for development proposals for the Les Mason site on Whitefish Lake and the Foy's Lake access of Lone Pine State Park.

The Department began operation of Somers Rest Area on Flathead Lake. Relinquished by the Highway Department because of its popularity for boat launching and swimming, the Department expects eventually to acquire the site. New pit toilets were installed.

A local club, Flathead Wildlife, Inc., constructed and installed a floating boat dock at Kila FAS. The road was graveled at Kokanee Bend FAS. Shady Lane FAS was developed with a parking lot and nature trail. The entry road was resurfaced at Wayfarer's SRA through cooperation with the county road department. New camp pads were created at Elmo SRA through cooperative loan of equipment from the State Forest.

A volunteer performed caretaker duties at Bitterroot SRA. This worked successfully, despite little Regional supervision.



Region 2

Site protection at Tucker Crossing along the Bitterroot River was accomplished by the regional maintenance crew. This work provided a long-needed road loop and parking lot. Cleanup was done on culverts, rock barriers, signing, fencing and gravel were provided.

After many years of roadside dumping at Bass creek, another Bitterroot site, the area was cleaned up with the cooperation of a group of Florence High School students. Two dump truck loads and several pickup loads of trash were removed. With the help of the Ravalli County Road Department, a parking lot was also developed.

Region Two Parks took the lead in landscaping the new Regional Headquarters. Thirty fir trees, a number of deciduous trees and shrubs were planted. Shelter belts were trimmed and cleaned out with the help of a high school Forestry class. The front lawn was established, the west side field was raked and seeded, storage rooms were built in the shop, and gas and tool sheds were painted. Extra sod, bark and railroad ties were used in other areas around the building. Along with a general cleanup of the area, routine mowing and snow plowing were done with Parks equipment.

Dry Creek near Superior was developed with cooperation of the Mineral County Sportsman Club. As part of the interstate development program, a parking area and boat ramp area were developed by the interstate contractor. The Sportsman Club then donated time, equipment and materials for the upper part of a cement boat ramp. Cement planks were installed to complete the ramp to the river's edge. This area will provide a long-needed boat access to the Lower Clark Fork.

The Flint Creek-Georgetown cabins received a long-needed cleanup and paint job. With the help of Enforcement personnel, Parks crews cleaned up all debris, scraped, painted and trimmed the cabins in new Parks colors.

Other special projects besides routine summer maintenance included: re-decking the bridge at Clearwater Crossing, developing a pullout area near the well at Lost Creek, expanding the Forest Grove parking lot to accommodate more vehicles, building and installing a portable river privy at Fish Creek. A special effort was made to secure the picnic tables at each site.

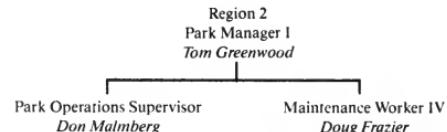
Region Two Parks personnel spent 30 days mowing grass and weeds at 21 different sites.

Use of the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor has continued to increase. Overnight campers and kayakers account for much of the increased use. Kayakers set an early trend with competitive kayak runs at the Roundup Access area. New

signs directing campers were installed and several landowners and their families turned out with tractors and other equipment to rebuild two areas for parking and river access.

A new public access agreement was reached and signed by the Blackfoot River landowners for a period of ten years.

Snow grooming trails in the Seeley Lake/Jocko - Ovando area were expanded by 60 miles. The 2100 Pack Master snow-groomer was repaired, which solved a differential overheating problem and a 100 gallon gas tank installed to lengthen its range. A new trail map was printed over the summer and made available. Cartography work was done by the U.S.F.S., and the printing completed through efforts of the department.



Region 3

During fiscal 1984, Region 3 parks personnel managed a diverse assortment of parks, monuments, recreation areas and fishing access sites. A great deal of effort was directed toward maintenance activities consisting of noxious weed control, maintenance of roads, grounds and facilities, monitoring of recreation use, site mowing and fencing.

Land management related duties involved potential acquisition of various in-holdings at the Missouri Headwaters S.P., Bannack S.P., Madison Buffalo Jump S.M., and Mount Haggin Wildlife and Recreation Area. Acquisition of various fishing access sites on the Big Hole, Yellowstone, Beaverhead, Missouri and East Gallatin Rivers was pursued. Regional personnel were also involved in the acquisition or long-term leasing of coal tax parks areas including Glen Lake, Parker Homestead and Pageville School.

Regional snowmobiling activities were coordinated with Helena personnel and local snowmobile clubs, and regional personnel actively groomed trails in the Bozeman area.

Unprecedented change in the parks division personnel required that time be allocated to soliciting, interviewing and training new staff at Lewis and Clark Caverns and the Bozeman office. New and continuing personnel attended various

training sessions and workshops to improve job knowledge and work performance.

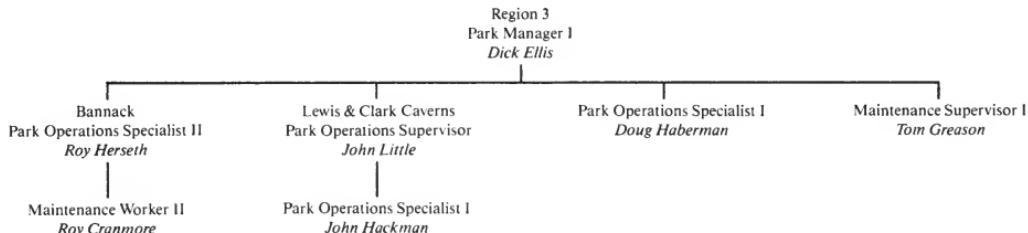
Numerous meetings were held with representatives of city, county, state and federal agencies to discuss areas of mutual interest and concern.

Special projects were coordinated with Green Thumb personnel, the Good Sam Club, the Boy Scouts, and the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society to accomplish work at fishing access sites on the Yellowstone, the Bozeman Ponds, Bannack S.P. and at Parker Homestead S.M.

A considerable amount of time was allocated to Bannack State Park where work was done on coordination of a historic structure report of the Mill Site, organization of the Bannack Days celebration, meetings with the BLM regarding potential road closures, and preliminary meetings addressing the development of a visitor center, interpretive program, and fire fighting system to be completed during FY '84.

A contract was negotiated to continue inventory of cultural resources on Mount Haggin and meetings were held with knowledgeable people to discuss past events and activities at that site.

Work continued on the development of a state-wide cultural resources policy which involved meetings and discussions with historical society personnel.



Region 4

The Giant Springs/Heritage State Park Commission, Riverfront Task Force, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks completed the first major step in their Vista and Overlook Project in time to help celebrate the city of Great Falls Centennial celebration on August 8. With Rainbow Scenic Overlook, Vista B, now completed, the Task force is engaged in preliminary discussion on Vistas C and D. A new map/directional sign for the vistas and overlooks has been installed at the Black Eagle Falls turnout.

Bid advertising for the New Region Four Fish Hatchery took place in June, with the pre-construction conference held in August. Construction began in September and hatchery personnel expect to be back in full operation by September of 1985.

Paving is now complete in the Heritage Park area of Giant Springs/Heritage State Park and new gates for each of the parking areas have been constructed and are being installed. The Heritage Park Committee donated and helped plant 28 trees for the Memorial Grove located in Heritage Park.

Two new double latrines were built by the shop class of Great Falls High School and installed by the maintenance crew at Bean Lake. Construction plans for site protection in that area are now in progress.

Sluice Boxes State Monument area is undergoing an ownership and survey study and the Design and Construction Bureau is coordinating a parking area contract.

An organization called Concerned Citizens for the Smith River was formed with a broad spectrum of interests represented by the membership. This ad-hoc committee continues to meet approximately once a month at Region Four headquarters with a collective cause of attempting to enhance sportsman/landowner relations, and help produce a management plan for the Smith River.

Camp Baker FAS on the Smith River was scheduled for site protection road work.

Ulm Pishkun State Monument has been closed to vehicle traffic from Oct. 15-April 15, primarily due to serious vandalism.

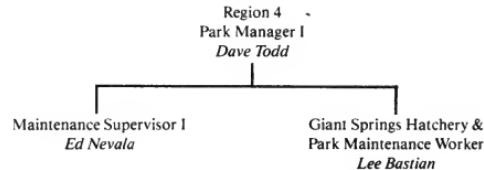
Spring Meadow Lake has been the scene of major changes over the summer months. Through the citizen-based Spring Meadow Lake Committee, a major fund raising effort was launched. Button sales and donations helped complete two bridges and a one mile graveled trail loop around the lake.

The Great Falls Snowmobile Club, Forest Service, and Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks have jointly planned an expansion of the Kings Hill parking lot. Signs were installed at the facility to aid snowmobile use.

Ed Nevala, Region Four Maintenance Foreman, completed an in-depth weed control summary for noxious weeds showing a figure of \$3,485.87 expended in 1984 for control of weeds in the various areas of Region Four. Ed's summary included maps of infested areas, a copy of pesticide applications and detailed cost figures.

Region Four personnel were busy during the month of July planning, preparing, constructing, and exhibiting a Parks State Fair project. It consisted of a detailed Region Four map showing all sites managed by the Department, and associated information such as visitation, funding sources, and a 8" X 10" picture of each site. The fair exhibit was manned for the entire eight days of the fair from 11:00 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. by Department personnel. The exhibit building was called "Nature's Den" and was shared with the Forest Service.

Two fence stiles were constructed by local wardens with Parks materials to enhance sportsman/landowner relations on the Missouri River. These stiles provide fishing access through private land and were installed at the landowner's request.



Region 5

The Region was involved with many activities during 1984, ranging from weed control to lifeguard scheduling.

Operation and management of Lake Elmo State Recreation Area in its first full season received the most attention. Many hours were spent on such activities as community surveys on user preferences, information dissemination through media and public speaking programs, site planning, production of a concession contract, organization of local volunteer help for clean up and beautification and a management plan for operations.

Over 21,000 visits were recorded for the 1984 season during the 10 week fee collection period. The Region received many favorable responses from users about Department ownership of Lake Elmo and its current management policies. Reported user satisfaction at Lake Elmo brought much pride to the region.

All 42 recreation areas in Region 5 were examined and evaluated for weed control measures. Mapping and scheduling of management practices for each site were implemented this past year.

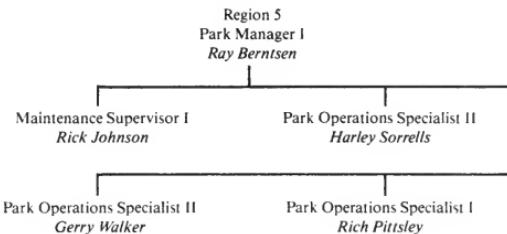
Other activities in which the Region was involved were the Department's surplus land disposal program, evaluation of potential conservation easement areas, the regional priority acquisition program, review of various state and federal land use proposals, and cooperative effort policy formulation agreements.

The Region was involved in two new programs this past year. The "Green Thumb" federal employment program allowed the Region to receive several hours of maintenance and facility repairs at various state recreation and fishing access areas at very little cost to the Department.

From the University Intern Program, a recreation major was utilized in the Region for various projects. The high degree of success generates intent for the program to continue in the region, provided adequate funding is available. The program provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about their field as well as providing the Department an additional working resource.

Current projects for the Region are the Cooney Reservoir management plan, including a concession contract, a self-service fee collection program, a transfer of budgeting and programming and record keeping activity to the Region computer system, construction of additional travelling display panels for public information and site interpretation and a cost analysis study of various maintenance techniques and practices for better utilization of funding.

All visitor data collection through fee reports and traffic counter tabulations indicate that public use is steadily increasing in Region 5.



Region 6

During 1984, Region 6 Park Manager John Little was transferred to Lewis and Clark Caverns in Region 3, and Warden Captain Art Warner became regional supervisor. During the time before these two positions were again filled, Warden Pilot Bob Stordahl was appointed both acting Warden Captain and Park Manager. With his continued duties as Warden Pilot, it proved to be a busy season for the acting Region 6 Park Manager.

Acquisition of additional Fishing Access Sites was a top priority in Region 6 during the past year. Attempts failed to lease or purchase sites at Snowden Bridge and at the mouth of Muddy Creek on the Missouri River. Work is continuing on acquisition of an easement from BLM for a boat launching site on the Milk River in McCone County.

Leafy spurge appeared in 1984 on the Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Access Site, which prompted spraying by the County Weed Board.

The boat ramp at Nelson Reservoir was extended, but within three days of completion, the ramp was again 50 feet short due to unusually low water. The problem intensified as the irrigation season got underway. The local Kiwanis Club was unable to use its proceeds from the 1983 fishing derby for the needed boat ramp extension. The funds are still available however, and will be requested again next year.

The piles at the Dredge Cut Fishing Access Site fishing piers were reinforced with rock. The Hill County road crew graded the road to Bear Paw Lake, but the road still requires graveling and additional grader work to remove washouts.

Reinforcement work was done on the Whitetail Reservoir spillway, and more work remains. Caretakers did painting and general repair work at all Region sites.

Region 6
Park Operations Specialist II
Bob Stordahl, Acting

Region 7

Region Seven stepped toward the future during 1984 with various construction and consulting contracts including Road improvement at Tongue River Reservoir, fencing at Rosebud Battlefield, a user preference telephone survey for Pirotage (formerly Doeden's) Island Fishing Access, historical research on the conflict at Rosebud Battlefield, road maintenance at Makoshika State Park and provision of a paddlefish cleaning facility at Intake Fishing Access.

Park management activities included negotiating with a concessionaire to operate Intake Fishing Access Site, attending a training workshop for certification in weed control, and making presentations to service clubs relating to parks and recreation.

Regional Parks Division personnel devoted substantial time directly to the recreating public by answering questions, giving presentations, advising on recreation plans and responding to public needs.

Region 7
Park Manager I
Doug Monger
|
Park Operations Spec
Beth Ranz

Canyon Ferry

Canyon Ferry State Recreation area is now within Region 8. Formerly, the area was split between Region 3, based in Bozeman, and Region 4, based in Great Falls. Consolidation has streamlined management activities at the Canyon Ferry complex.

Tom Campbell replaced Bob McKenna as manager in the fall of 1983. In order to increase management and enforcement coverage and provide more visibility in the area, a full time Parks Operation Specialist, Mark Soderlind, was assigned to Canyon Ferry in March 1984. Mark was transferred from Region 1 in Kalispell.

A self-pay fee system was implemented at Hellgate Campground. All indications are that the experiment was highly successful. It reduced fee collection time and allowed the Park attendant to devote more time and effort to facilities maintenance.

\$70,000 was spent on improvement of the West Shore road. This led to increased vehicle speeds which required a speed survey by the Highway Safety Bureau to establish a safe and reasonable speed limit.

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graph TD
    Tom[Tom Campbell] --- Mark[Mark Soderlind]
    Tom --- Bill[Bill Hohn]
    subgraph "Canyon Ferry Reservoir Park Operations Supervisor"
        Tom
        Mark
        Bill
    end

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Publications

Reports

Bugbee and Associates, Conservation Easements Guidelines, January 1984, pp 200

Paul Pacini, Smith River Annual Report for 1983, October 1983, pp 35

Brochures

Bannack SP Tour Brochures (Reprint) April 1984, 10,000 copies

Lewis and Clark Caverns Tour Brochures (Reprint) April 1984, 25,000 copies

Lake Elmo SRA ... How Can You Make It Better?, September 1983, 400 copies

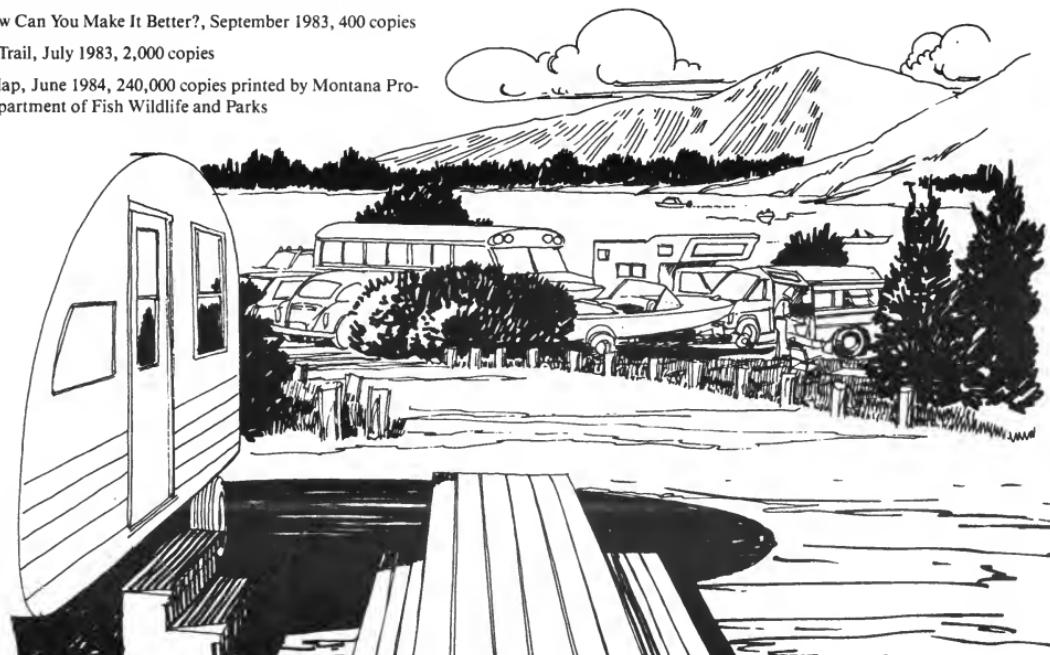
Kinney Coulee Hiking Trail, July 1983, 2,000 copies

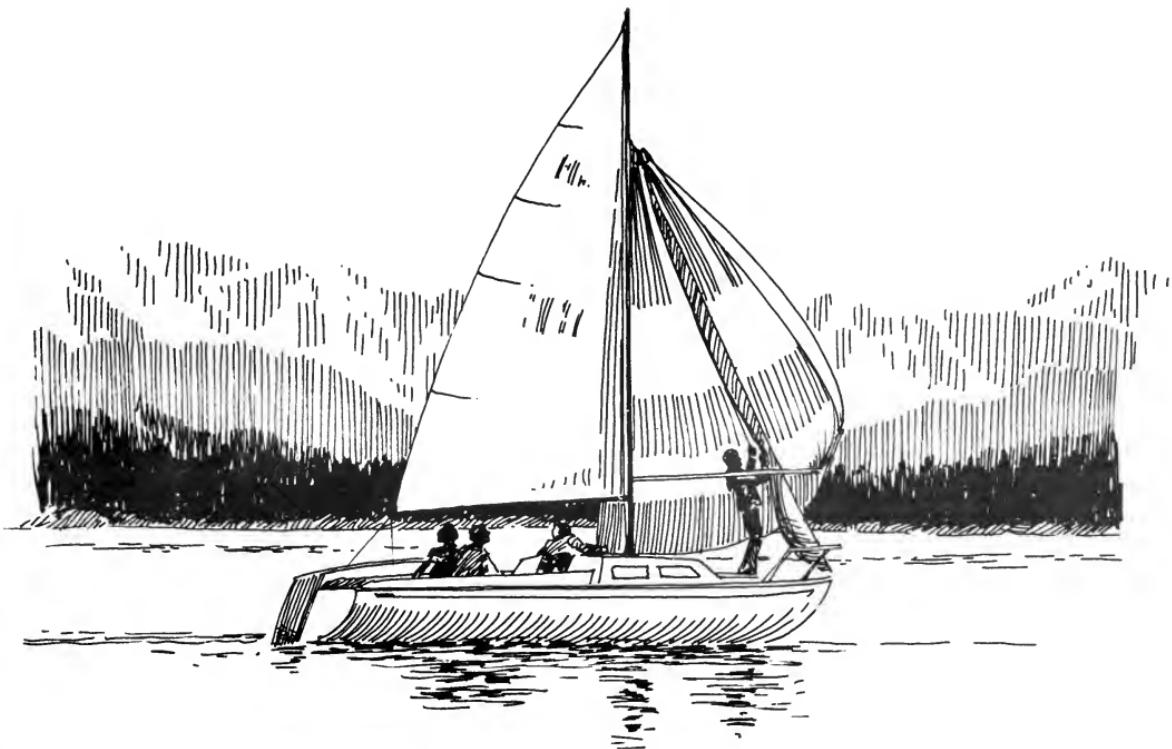
Montana Recreation Map, June 1984, 240,000 copies printed by Montana Promotion - 40,000 for Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks

Miscellaneous

Lewis and Clark Caverns Tour Tickets, February, 1984, 50,000 tickets

Bannack Days Placemats, June, 1984, 25,000





CHAPTER 2



TED SCHWINDEN
GOVERNOR

State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Reader:

Since 1965, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has administered the Land and Water Conservation Fund, providing nearly 27 million dollars to more than 600 state and local outdoor recreation projects. Many Montanans, especially in our rural communities, would not have the recreational opportunities now available, such as swimming pools, ballfields, and parks, if it were not for this Fund.

I take pleasure in endorsing this program and the action plan contained in the following pages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Schwinden". Below the signature, the word "Governor" is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font.

SCORP Action Plan FY 1985

Accomplishments

July 1983 - June 1984

Montana Recreation Map

The first Montana Recreation Map was published during the 1983 camping season. The map was a compendium of all state and federal campgrounds and recreation sites in the state. It proved extremely useful and was well accepted by the public. It was sent by the Montana Promotion Bureau to all nonresident and resident requests for tourist information, and was dispensed at all Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional offices and the state headquarters.

During the spring of 1984, the Recreation Map was further refined by

- a) enhancing the legend
- b) verifying location descriptions
- c) improving the facility inventory at each site
- d) adjusting map colors to improve readability
- e) adding additional sites

Such revisions and improvements will continue to be made on a bi-annual basis to insure an up-to-date inventory.

Local Community Supply Inventory

During the past year, all incorporated cities and towns, all counties and all public and private schools, universities and colleges were surveyed by mail to determine statewide inventory of ten key recreational facilities. These ten facilities are tennis courts, ball fields, basketball courts, playground apparatus areas, swimming pools, artificial ice rinks, natural ice rinks, golf courses, firing/archery ranges, and parks.

A good response was received from all categories listed. These responses are now being alphabetized and organized. The actual response sheets used will be bound in booklet form for internal use when reviewing LWCF grant applications.

Department Plan

Department wide planning progressed well over the past year with planners representing the three department programs, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The plan is essentially prepared, with only minor editing remaining to be done. The plan should be released to the public by mid-1985.

LWCF Grant Allocations

Due to the increase in applications over recent years and the limited amount of revenue available, a periodic review of selection criteria is done to insure efficiency and equitability. During the past year, this review used the Project Priority Rating System and the Facility Standards to help select coming LWCF projects; it was found to be more than adequate. The Rating System has remained unchanged and can be found on Page 110 of the 1983 SCORP. The Facility Standard was only slightly modified to include park lands and is discussed following.

Montana Recreation Facility Standards

Certain recreation activities require special facilities, ranging from rather simple development to elaborate and costly construction, such as swimming pools. Accordingly, such activities are provided for on a more limited basis, directly related to the economics of the situation, and to the proportionate use of the facility. Over a period of years, municipalities have arrived at general relationships between the number of facilities and the population. The following general standards have been found to be appropriate for cities and towns in Montana.

The standards are stated in terms of one recreation facility per unit of population served. Each community, however, is entitled to at least one facility of each type unless otherwise noted in the respective standard. For example, communities of less than 1,500 population will be entitled to one tennis court, although the standards are one per 1,500 total population. Thereafter, the standard would be applied in increments of 1,500 population. Thus, a community between 1,500 and 3,000 population would be entitled to 2 tennis courts.

These standards are used in the evaluation process involved in the allocation of Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to local communities for outdoor recreation projects. It is recognized that not all communities will find it desirable to bring each of their facilities up to these standards, due to lack of participation or cost factors.

The evaluation of need in a particular community however, will not be specific to the particular facility requested, but will be an overview of total need. In other words, a community may be eligible for more tennis courts than standards indicate if it chooses to build fewer than the standard number of ballfields, swimming pools or other facilities.

Communities applying for LWCF assistance for an outdoor recreation project will be ranked according to the following formula.

$$\text{Rank} = 10 \frac{(1 - \text{Have})}{\text{Need}}$$

"Rank" is a numerical value where 10 indicates the highest priority.

"Have" refers to the number of facilities the community actually has according to the latest local facility survey.

"Need" refers to the number of facilities a community should have based upon its population and the facility standards.

MONTANA FACILITY STANDARDS

1. Tennis court	1 court per 1,500 population
2. Ballfield (softball or hardball)	1 field per 1,000 population
3. Basketball court	1 court per 1,500 population
4. Playground apparatus area	1 per 1,000 population
5. Swimming pools	1 per 10,000 population
(Do not include wading or spray pools.)	
6. Artificial ice rinks	1 per 30,000 population
(None in communities under 30,000.)	
7. Natural ice rinks	1 per 10,000 population
(Rinks dependent upon weather conditions.)	
8. Golf course	1-9 hole increment per 12,000 population
9. Firing/archery range	1 per 50,000 population
10. Community/neighborhood park	1 per 1,000 population

State Lands Inventory

Montana sportsmen have expressed disappointment that some parcels of school trust land in agricultural use are posted against hunting, fishing, or trespassing by current lessees. While this practice is in accord with Department of State Lands (DSL) policy, one solution would be for the Department to lease the recreational values of the parcels concerned.

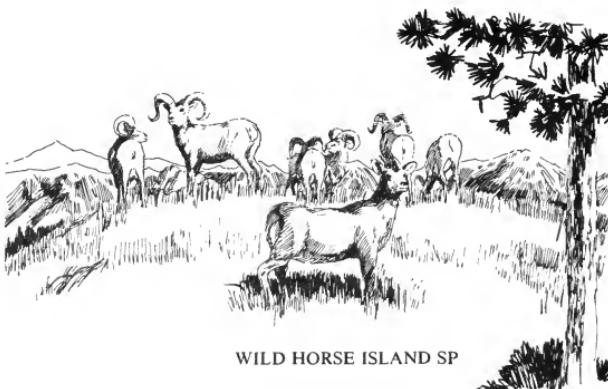
In an effort to identify the magnitude of the problem, a State Lands Inventory was conducted by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to determine the number of acres of School Trust Land valuable to sportsmen, and the number of acres of this land which does not allow free access. Following are the results:

Region	Acres Valuable To Sportsmen	Acres With No Free Access
R-1	222,548	-0-
R-2	2,161	2,161
R-3	61,214	21,503
R-4	298,804	125,380
R-5	68,016	6,194
R-6	45,278	15,500
R-7	10,534	1,920
Total	788,555	171,658

A total of 5,216,176 acres of land classified for grazing, agriculture, or timber are owned by the State of Montana and administered by the Department of State Lands.

The amount of State Land valuable to sportsmen, which does not offer free access to the public amounts to only 3.3% of all School Trust Land. At this time, no decision has been made with regard to purchasing recreational access.

The Department will continue to lease school trust lands for fishing and boating access where improvements and facilities are required.



WILD HORSE ISLAND SP

Implementation Schedule

July 1984 - June 1985

Recreation Map -

See "Accomplishments...", "Recreation Map", page 35.

Needs Assessment -

The State of Montana will be preparing an up-to-date assessment of local recreational needs. An immediate assessment is presently being prepared by relating the supply data, discussed under "Accomplishments..." above, to the facility standards. This assessment should be available by March of 1985.

A more in-depth assessment will begin in July of 1985. A suitable consultant is being solicited as this is being written. The survey work is scheduled to begin in July of 1985, but its completion date and methodology will have to be determined by the terms of the contract once a consultant is employed.

Pacific Northwest Rivers Assessment

The Northwest Power Planning Council has developed a plan to meet the energy needs of the northwest for the next 20 years. They also developed a program to mitigate the losses of fish and wildlife which resulted from hydropower development in the Columbia River Basin.

Those programs called for ranking potential hydroelectric sites in categories based on their potential impact to fish, wildlife and other natural values. They also called for the designation of stream reaches in the Columbia River Basin to be protected from all future hydropower, based on their unique fish and wildlife values.

On August 30, 1984, the Council approved a study plan to initiate the assessment of rivers and streams throughout the four northwest states. This will include Montana in its entirety. The study would aggregate existing data to determine the relative value of river reaches based on fish, wildlife, natural area, cultural, historical, recreation and other values. The study is to be completed in 15 months (by Nov. 1985) and coordinated by each of the four states. Federal agencies would input information to the assessment and Indian Tribes would coordinate with the state but develop their own criteria suitable for application on their respective reservations.

Pat Graham of the Department has been designated as the State of Montana coordinator. State resource experts would be designated for each resource category. Staff would be funded to facilitate collection and presentation of information. Regional managers in fish, wildlife and parks would be expected to 1) review criteria, 2) provide appropriate data and 3) review stream rankings. The existing Department stream database provides an important opportunity to incorporate this assessment into a form that will be of continuing value in the Department's river management programs.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RIVERS ASSESSMENT

SCHEDULE OF PRODUCTS

TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	COMPLETION DATES
1. Approve work plan	Council	August 29-30, 1984
2. Identify rivers to be studied	Council Staff	September 30, 1984
3. Designate state coordinators	State Governors	September 15, 1984
4. Complete contracts	Council/BPA	September 30, 1984
5. Select anadromous fish assessment coordinator	Council Staff	September 1984
6. Convene state task force	State Coordinator	October 15, 1984
7. Adopt criteria for river values	BPA/State Task Force	November 15, 1984
8. Prepare evaluation format and base maps for state use	BPA	December 30, 1984
9. Indian cultural and archaeologic assessment	Council/Tribes	November-April 1985
10. Anadromous fish assessment	HASC/Coordinator/Agencies/Tribes	October-June 1985
11. Perform river resource assessments	State Task Force	January-October 1985
12. Publish results	BPA	November 1985
13. Computerize river assessment	BPA	November 1985
14. Overlay hydropower sites	Council Staff	November 1985
15. Recommend supply curves	Council Staff	
16. Recommend protected area designations	Council Staff	
17. Recommend site ranking	Council Staff	

Coal Severance Tax

The Coal Severance Tax has provided over \$3.6 million for park acquisition since its inception in 1975. Park land acquired by Coal Tax revenue may also be operated and maintained by funding from the same source. While this allows for operation and maintenance of Coal Tax acquired sites, other sites comprising the majority of the Park System rely largely on the State's general fund for such needs. Over the years, however, the general fund has played a decreasing role in Park System funding.

When the State Legislature meets in January, 1985, a bill will be introduced to allow Coal Tax revenue to be used for operation and maintenance at any State Park System site. If passed, the bill would allow for more uniform maintenance and operation of the State Park system.

Park Goal and Objectives

The Parks Program is divided into Department Sites and Off Site Recreation. Department Sites are lands the state purchases, classifies and manages to provide a base for recreational, cultural or scientific uses as part of the State Park System. The department also manages six Off Site Recreation elements primarily through programming, regulation and the provision of facilities for recreational or cultural activities.

The department is mandated by law to conserve these natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of the people. Management activities thus include land acquisition, capital construction, law enforcement, interpretation, the provision of information, operations, general maintenance, and coordination with other agencies.

During 1982, department sites within the state park system hosted over 4.1 million visits. Off site elements hosted over 18.1 million activity days.

The Parks Program Goal and Objectives were scheduled for completion in January, 1985. However, this element was accelerated to meet the demands of Department-wide planning. The goal and objectives which will guide Montana's parks program through 1990 are listed on the following pages for each of the ten program elements that make up the parks program. They are directed toward five priorities:

1. Defining and managing a quality park system.
2. Managing recreational use of rivers.
3. Maximizing the economic benefits of recreation to Montanans.

4. Increasing program visibility and citizen participation.
5. Making innovative use of existing operational resources.

PARKS PROGRAM GOAL:

To manage Montana's scenic, historic, archaeologic and recreational resources within their capabilities to meet present and future demands.

DEPARTMENT SITES STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for an estimated 4,716,400 visits to 371 park system sites at an 80% level of satisfaction.

STATE RECREATION AREAS STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for 2,049,600 visits to 79 state recreation areas on 66,377 land and water acres.

SPORTSMAN ACCESS STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for 1,926,700 visits to 256 sites on 19,442 land and water acres in a manner consistent with objectives in the fish and wildlife programs.

STATE PARKS STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for 556,400 visits to 16 state parks while preserving and interpreting their unique values on 23,535 acres.

STATE MONUMENTS STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for 183,700 visits to 20 state monuments while preserving and interpreting their unique values on 3,130 acres.

OFF SITE RECREATION STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for an estimated 19,882,037 activity days of use; to develop objectives for quality levels; and use levels for community/statewide recreation.

RECREATIONAL WATERWAYS STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for 674,928 activity days of use consistent with objectives in the fish and wildlife programs; to formally manage two river segments; and to develop objectives for quality levels.

BOATING STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for an estimated 1,362,160 activity days of safe boating by 48,000 registered boats; to reduce fatalities to 2.4 per 100,000 boats.

SNOWMOBILING STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide 460,654 activity days of safe snowmobiling and 2249 miles of groomed trails for 34,000 registered snowmobiles.

COMMUNITY RECREATION STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To have provided funding for a total of 800 LWCF projects and acquired 78,000 acres for outdoor recreation with a total per capita expenditure of \$45.

RECREATION ROADS AND TRAILS

STATEWIDE OBJECTIVE (1990):

To develop measurable objectives, to increase managed areas to 11, and to assist in providing for an estimated 16,134,575 activity days of use.

STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX GROUNDS OBJECTIVE (1990):

To provide for an estimated 1,249,720 days of capitol grounds use at an assessment rate of 7¢ per square foot of building at an 85% level of satisfaction.

Department Planning Elements

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks consists of three programs as depicted in its name. A Department-wide planning effort will continue in the coming fiscal year to define goals and objectives for each of these program areas. Past efforts have concentrated on collecting insights from field personnel in the Department's seven regions. This data is now being tabulated, quantified and analyzed to determine the Department's future course. These findings will be further reviewed and enhanced by administrative personnel before the plan is released to the public in mid-1985.

Snowmobile Grant Allocations

Revenue is generated for the Snowmobile Program through the sale of snowmobile registration decals and an assessment on the state's gasoline tax. This revenue is then allocated to various areas of the state for trail improvements, grooming, and parking lot construction or maintenance on the basis of applications received from local snowmobile clubs or other government agencies.

Initially, all requests for funding were satisfied. More recently, applications for funding exceeded the available revenue. As this gap between funds available and funds requested widens, it becomes more critical that a fair and efficient selection criteria exist to determine allocations.

Although no major shortcomings have been obvious in the present selection criteria, a review will be conducted between January and April of 1985 to insure that a sound system is in place for future years.



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

PRIORITIES

Priority considerations have been compiled to guide both local and state LWCF expenditures. These priorities reflect state law, legislative mandates and needs identified by SCORP.

LWCF Priorities for Local expenditures are:

1. Projects which meet specific local needs;
2. Projects which will provide for both active and passive participation;
3. Projects which may be used for two or more seasons of the year;
4. Projects which accommodate a variety of recreational uses.

LWCF Priorities for State Expenditures are:

1. Projects "earmarked" for LWCF funding by the State Legislature;
2. Projects which will enhance the recreational experience by conserving the scenic, archaeologic, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and provide for their use;
3. Projects designed to aid in people management and law enforcement, i.e., controlled access, screened camping areas, vandal-proof facilities, area designations and development for specific uses;
4. Projects near population centers;
5. Projects which will serve as a destination vacation site, i.e., with significant attractions on site or within a short drive;
6. Projects which will help the state acquire inholding, at existing sites;
7. Projects which will provide a trail experience or a trailhead onto other public land.

NATIONWIDE ISSUES

River recreation has constantly gained in importance as a major recreational pursuit in Montana over the last decade. Rivers that, just a few years ago, were known only to local farmers, ranchers and irrigation companies are now part of the floater's vocabulary...such as the Smith, the Dearborn and Belt Creek.

This increased popularity is most easily recognized by the many canoes, rafts, and rowing frames traveling our summer highways on top of or behind automobiles. This newly discovered form of fun is not without problems, however. Because many floatable streams pass through private land, riparian land owners have become increasingly concerned about trespass and potential vandalism. In the last three years, the right of the public to use the Dearborn and Beaverhead Rivers has been the subject of State Supreme Court litigation. The court's decision allows public use of any waterway up to the highwater mark of its headwaters, and requires that portage be allowed across private land to avoid river obstacles such as fences or low bridges.

This decision elated floaters, but caused increased concern to riparian land owners.







***Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks***

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